

U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

100-370969

(b) (7)(D)

See also Nos.

CLASSIFICATION NO.

100

99586

Serials

Volume Number

AL

1. 5/12/55. 2 photos of Oscar Brand. *Ry*



100-99586-1A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>Ry</i>	FILED <i>Ry</i>
MAY 12 1955	
FBI-NEW YORK	

Em

Date Received. 11/30/54
From ... OSCAR BRAND
... Mrs. W. L. F. GUYE
(name & address of contributor)

By-Name of SA JOHN S. TODD
To Be Returned... Yes () No (X)
File Number 100-99586-1A1
Description:

2 PHOTOS OF OSCAR BRAND



OSCAR BRAND

Photo 1951

100-99586-1A1^{RL}

OSCAR
BRAND

Photo 1951

100-99586-1A1^{RL}

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New York 7, New York

CONFIDENTIAL
June 5, 1950

MEMO:

RE: OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

On 5-18-50

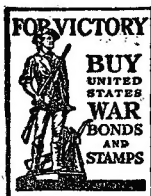
LOUIS F. BUDENZ was interviewed concerning a statement he had originally made to Dr. J. B. MATTHEWS, formerly employed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities that he, BUDENZ, knew 400 concealed Communists. BUDENZ stated that he could not recall making this statement to MATTHEWS but that he did make this statement in the book which he had just written and which is to be published in the very near future, "Men Without Faces".

BUDENZ stated that if he revealed the 400 concealed Communists he would be deluged with libel suits, and even if he won them he would go broke plus having to devote all his time to defending himself. However, BUDENZ advised that he would furnish the New York Office with a list of 400 concealed Communists in the near future.

To date he has furnished the names of many individuals among which appears the name of the above captioned.

However they may or may not have a Party card although he states that he knows they are Communists either because he personally met them at closed Communist meetings or his meeting with the person was such that he knew that he was a party member. In some instances BUDENZ never met the person, but knows the person to be a Communist because of a report by some Communist Party Official who described that person as a Communist. It should be noted that BUDENZ stated that he has never prepared a written list of concealed Communists. He has, however, compiled a mental list and he feels that he knows approximately 400 such persons. Specific information relative to BUDENZ' comments concerning each of the persons named by him will be obtained from BUDENZ as soon as possible.

BUDENZ stated that due to the fact he had compiled the list of names in a hurry it is possible he may be in error concerning several individuals. He requested therefore that the names he furnished not be released outside of the Bureau because of the chance of error. He stated that he will go over the list with representatives of the FBI and will furnish information which he possesses concerning each individual, at which time he will determine the individuals, if any, erroneously included.



cc: 100-98164

GJS:LJR

EDWARD SCHEIDT

Special Agent in Charge

FBI NEW YORK
JUN 20 1950

Lead 100-99586-1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

DATE: August 8, 1950

SUBJECT: RE: OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

(LOUIS BUDENZ 400)

*no. 99586 be

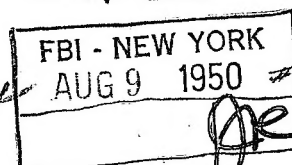
Send of 100 Deft has been opened

LOUIS F. BUDENZ, formerly managing editor of the "Daily Worker" and a Communist Party functionary until he broke with the Party in October, 1945 has been interviewed during the past few months concerning the concealed Communists whom he knew. The person named above as the subject of this case, was one of these individuals whom BUDENZ described as a concealed Communist. BUDENZ describes a concealed Communist as one who does not hold himself out as a Communist and who would deny membership in the Party.

BUDENZ advised SA WILLIAM J. MC CARTHY, JR. on June 30, 1950 of all he knew concerning the subject, that he felt was pertinent, and he dictated this information to a stenographer of this office, who was present during the interview.

He used, in order to bring out all he knew about the subject, the following set of questions. He considered all questions in connection with this subject. Where he did not comment on some particular question as to the activity of the subject, then it is because he had no knowledge. If he recalled anything about the subject as a result of these questions he dictated what he knew. The questions are as follows:

1. Identify individual
 - a. If observed a description and other identifying data;
 - b. If not seen, enough descriptive data about individual to positively identify him or her;
 - c. Any aliases
2. Narrate how he knows individual as a Communist
 - a. If seen at a closed meeting, get date, place and persons present at meeting;
 - b. If told officially that individual was a Communist, who said it, what were the circumstances, and who was present;
 - c. Relate all occasions when he met or heard of individual as Communist.
3. Documents
 - a. Did individual ever write anything that might be considered Communist literature.
 1. For "Daily Worker", "New Masses", "Political Affairs", any any front publications or other publications.

cc: WJM:APK/DM
100-

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Letter to Director

4 Fronts

Was individual active in front organizations.

- a. Which organizations
- b. How active was individual

5. Espionage

Was individual ever involved in secret work;

What work;

Who knew it;

Did individual ever do any special work for party.

6. Is individual still active or sympathetic toward Party.
7. Can you recall any trips abroad particularly to Russia and the approximate date of the trips? Can you recall the nature of the trips.
8. Did you ever hear that he had attended any of the training schools in Russia?
9. Did this subject appear to have entree to the Russian Consulate or did he receive special consideration and attention from known Russian Agents or Communist Officials in U.S.?
10. Is the subject working for the U.S. Government or is he affiliated in any way in Confidential Government work at this time?
11. Did this individual have military training, Abraham Lincoln Brigade, U.S. Army, other service?
12. Was this individual employed in vital industry?
13. Do you know any other members of his family who are Communists?
14. Do you know of any other activity on the part of the individual which would indicate that the individual is a concealed Communist?

Additional questions were asked as a result of his answers to the above questions in order to fully develop his information.

Letter to Director

Attached is a blind memorandum dictated by LOUIS F. BUDENZ and containing all the pertinent information concerning the subject which BUDENZ could presently recollect.

The original of each memo has been reviewed by Mr. BUDENZ and he has made any necessary corrections and he has signed the original. The signed original of each memo is being retained in the confidential informant file of LOUIS F. BUDENZ, NY file .

Since the individuals such as the subject of this case are, according to BUDENZ, concealed Communists and since they are, in most instances, persons of some prominence, it is suggested that if the information appearing in the attached blind memo is reported, then Mr. BUDENZ should be given a temporary confidential informant symbol.

For the information of the Bureau the subject is one of the 400 concealed Communists whom BUDENZ stated he knew. The names of these concealed Communists were sent to the Bureau in the case captioned "Communist Party, USA, Internal Security - C".

OSCAR BRAND

Folk singer.

Although it is my impression that OSCAR BRAND, PETE SEEGER and several other folk singers of that type entertained a closed session of the National Convention of the Communist Party in connection with MOTHER BLOOR'S anniversary (probably around 1944), I was first officially advised of BRAND'S connection with the Party in 1945. This report came to me through ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and V. J. JEROME in connection with BRAND'S growing cooperation with EARL ROBINSON, particularly in People's Songs.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

New York, New York
October 16, 1950

MEMO:

RE: OSCAR BRAND
SM - C

Send CF on ref.
**NO. 99586*
#14

[] by report received in the NY Office on 7/20/50,
advised that the Progressive Forums were held in the Panel Room (3rd Floor)
of 13 Astor Place, NYC.

The subject was one of those listed as attending the above
Progressive Forum.

RICHARD T. CLANCY, SA

cc-NY 100-94014 (P. and C.)

[] SHOULD IN EVERY INSTANCE
BE CHARACTERIZED AS OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY.
INFO SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED TO OUTSIDE
AGENCIES UNLESS CORROBORATED BY OTHER RELI-
ABLE SOURCES.

RTC:LEW
100-

Rec'd
10/19/50
7

NO. 99586 - 3
OCT 18 1950
OCT 18 1950
GAT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: November 8, 1950

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bureau file 100-370969Chief Clerk
Reopened #12
11/28/50
[Signature]

Reurlet August 8, 1950.

A review of the Bureau's indices reflects that the name of Oscar Brand appears in the following New York reports:

The report of Special Agent Joseph A. Cullen entitled "PROGRESSIVE PARTY, IS - C" dated February 7, 1950 at New York (Page 40, paragraph 4 - New York file 100-94070).

The report of Special Agent Albert J. Klein entitled "COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE RADIO - TELEVISION INDUSTRY - IS-C" dated November 30, 1949 (Pages 24, 63, and 73 - New York file 100-80374).

The report of Special Agent Robert W. Coholan entitled "PEOPLES SONGS INCORPORATED - SECURITY MATTER-C" dated January 5, 1949 (Page 11 - New York file 100-16071).

The report of Special Agent Donald P. Adams entitled "PEOPLES ARTISTS INCORPORATED - IS-C" dated January 28, 1949 (Page 6 - New York file 100-81674).

NOTE
Inasmuch as Brand has been named by Budenz as a concealed Communist, you are requested to immediately open a security investigation on Brand for the purpose of determining whether his activities warrant placing his name on the Security Index.no agent available for assignment.
11/2 #12 12/1/50100-99586-4
SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒
NOV 9 1950
FBI - NEW YORK
[Signature]2-6-51
O-I form dated 1-25-51
requesting my to assign immediately.
30m returns 2-6-51 assigning case has been
unresponsive due to unavailability of personnel
but case should be assigned
in near future &
located in vicinity of
11/183/26/51
O-I form 3/16/51
requesting my assign immediately
Returned 3/26/51 assigning will
prop by 4/10/51
[Signature]

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

New York, N.Y.
April 5, 1951

MEMO.

Re: OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

There is set forth below, information furnished by

.
A year ago, BRAND was still on the City Radio Station as a featured artist. His specialty is folk songs and he accompanys himself with a guitar.

He is considered in Party circles as a Party member. BRAND was quite active in the WALLACE Presidential campaign with the so-called Wallace Caravan and he also appeared from time to time on Local 65 of the Distributive Trades so-called Nightclub programs at 131 Hester Place.

EDWARD W. BUCKLEY,
SA

cc:

EWB:amc
100-99586

100-99586-5
12
FBI - NEW YORK
APR 9 1951
Ruda

New York, New York
April 9, 1951

MEMO

RE: OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

The following references have been reviewed in connection with the above captioned subject and those found to be identical have been included in the report of SA HENRY C. RUDA, dated April 9, 1951, at New York City:

Identical

OSCAR BRAND

100 - 99586 *
100 - 61032 - 92
100 - 8522 - 854
100 - 80374 - 76
- 111, p. 29, 30, 34, 63, 73
100 - 85800 - 1B7329, p. 3
100 - 80374 - 168, p. 1
100 - 80374 - 99
- 158, p. 19
100 - 16071 - 1B8, p. 19 (People's Songs,
Feb-Mar. 1948)
100 - 80374 - 1B2, p. 27 (Red Channels)
100 - 80374 - 193, p. 1
100 - 97729 - 3
100 - 81674 - 14
100 - 80675 - 307
100 - 94070 - 123, p. 1
100 - 80675 - 1B253
97 - 169 - 186 (Daily Worker)

4/10/47 - p. 8, col. 1
8/8/47 - p. 8, col. 1
1/28/48 - p. 13, col. 3 (photo)
3/17/48 - p. 13, col. 3 (photo)
3/26/48 - p. 12, col. 1

HCR:LEJ
100-99586

FBI - NEW YORK
APR 10 1951

Gl Healy

100-99586-6

Memo
NY 100-99586

5/14/48 - p. 6, col. 1
10/29/48 - p. 13, col. 4
12/10/48 - p. 12, col. 3
3/6/49 - Sect. 1, p. 10, col. 1
12/7/49 - p. 8, col. 5
- 5/18/48 - p. 13, col. 4

HENRY C. RUDA, SA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-99586 LEJ**

REPORT MADE AT <p style="text-align: center;">NEW YORK</p>	DATE WHEN MADE <p style="text-align: center;">4/9/51</p>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <p style="text-align: center;">3/12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27/51</p>	REPORT MADE BY <p style="text-align: center;">HENRY C. RUDA</p>
TITLE <p style="text-align: center;">OSCAR BRAND</p>			CHARACTER OF CASE <p style="text-align: center;">SECURITY MATTER - C</p>

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject born 2/7/20, Winnipeg, Canada. Resides 300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York. Employed as entertainer and "folk-song" singer. Reported "concealed" Communist in 1945. Associations, as entertainer, with the CP, and Communist front organizations (CRC, IWO, ALP, People's Artists, Inc., People's Songs, Progressive Citizens of America). Other activities set forth. Background and description set out.

- P -

DETAILS:

At New York, New York

Birth

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised in March 1951 that OSCAR BRAND was born on February 7, 1920, at Winnipeg, Canada.

Residence

The current Manhattan telephone directory reflects that OSCAR BRAND, 300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York, subscribes to telephone number Chelsea 2-0649.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised on March 13, 1951 that OSCAR BRAND, entertainer and "folk-song"

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;"> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE </div>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;"> 100-99586-8 8 </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (100-370969) ③ - New York <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive;"> LEJ </div>	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 3em; font-family: cursive;"> J J J </div>

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-59255-1

NY 100-99586

singer, resides at 300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York, and subscribes to telephone number Chelsea 2-0649.

Employment

Confidential Informant T-2 advised on March 13, 1951 that subject is employed as a musician and singer of "folk-songs" and is represented by his agent, GUNTHER LAWRENCE. This informant had no specific information as to the permanent engagements of BRAND; however, the informant stated that the subject is engaged on a free lance basis for entertainment purposes as opportunities arise.

On March 26, 1951, Miss CONSTANCE JESSELSON, Program Department, New York City Municipal Broadcasting Division, Radio Station WNYC, Municipal Building, Manhattan, New York, advised that OSCAR BRAND is currently appearing on a half-hour program of (folk) music over WNYC from 6 to 6:30 p.m., Sunday evenings. Miss JESSELSON stated that BRAND receives no remuneration for his appearances and, therefore, is not actually employed by WNYC. She said that it is her understanding that GUNTHER LAWRENCE, who writes the scripts for BRAND's WNYC program, also manages engagements for the subject.

Communist Party Activity

Association with the Communist Party

The "Daily Worker" dated February 10, 1949 reflects on page 7, column 5, in an article captioned, "What's On?", the following information concerning the subject:

"OSCAR BRAND: Party, dance and variety entertainer. ... 88 Clinton Street, near Delancey, Sat. nite, February 12, 8:30. JACOB RIIS, C. P. ..."

It will be noted that the "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper.

On May 18, 1950, Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR BRAND, "folk-song" singer, was known to him as a "concealed" Communist.

NY 100-99586

On June 30, 1950, the above informant again advised that OSCAR BRAND, singer of "folk" songs, and other individuals entertained a closed session of the National Convention of the Communist Party in connection with "Mother" BLOOR's anniversary sometime in 1944. This informant stated that this information was received by him from officials of the Communist Party in 1945 that the subject was connected with the Communist Party in 1945, in connection with BRAND's cooperation with other individuals, particularly in an organization known as People's Songs.

It will be noted that the "Daily Worker" dated July 1, 1947 states in an article that "Mother" BLOOR (ELLA REEVE BLOOR) "is the first lady of the CP and an outstanding Communist woman."

It is further to be noted that the organization known as People's Songs will be identified in another section of instant report.

In March 1951, Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR BRAND entertained by singing songs and playing the guitar at a rally held at the Stuyvesant Casino, 140 Second Avenue, New York City, on April 28, 1947. The above rally was held under the auspices of the Henry Forbes Club of the Communist Party.

Organizations which have been declared Communist by the Attorney General, coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835

Civil Rights Congress (CRC)

On November 25, 1947, SA D. F. CAHILL attended a street Rally of the Civil Rights Congress held at 38th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. This meeting was sponsored by the Cutters and Dressmakers, Civil Rights Division, CRC.

Among the speakers at the above meeting was GERHARD EISLER, who, at this meeting, acknowledged that he had been a Communist for thirty years. SA CAHILL advised that OSCAR BRAND entertained and sang three songs at the above Rally.

It will be noted that Confidential Informant T-3 has advised that GERHARD EISLER was the Number One Communist in the United States.

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It will further be noted that GERHARD EISLER was convicted on charges of Exit Permit Fraud and Contempt of Congress in the District of Columbia in 1947 and fled the United States on May 5, 1949.

On December 6, 1948, Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, made available a pamphlet which advertised a "Folk Festival for Freedom" to be held Friday, December 10, 1948, at the Penthouse Ballroom, 13 Astor Place, New York City, under the auspices of the CRC. *See also*

The above pamphlet stated that OSCAR BRAND was scheduled to act as master of ceremonies at the above Festival.

The "Daily Worker" dated December 10, 1948 reflects an article on page 7, which article states that OSCAR BRAND acted as master of ceremonies at the "Folk Festival for Freedom" which was held under the auspices of the CRC.

International Workers Order (IWO)

The "Daily Worker" dated August 8, 1947 reflects an article on page 8, column 1, which article announces that BRAND would entertain at a meeting of Lodge No. 500 of the IWO.

Congress of American Women

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that OSCAR BRAND sang at a meeting of the Congress of American Women held at the Hotel Capitol, New York City, on March 26, 1947.

The following organization has been designated a Communist organization by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in its report dated March 29, 1944:

American Labor Party

The "Daily Worker" dated March 17, 1950 reflects on page 8 an article which sets forth that OSCAR BRAND was scheduled to be an entertainer at a rally to prevent "H-bomb" destruction on the above date at the Herman Ridder Jr. High

NY 100-99586

School, Bronx, New York, which rally was to be held under the auspices of the American Labor Party.

The following have been declared Communist front organizations by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report:

People's Songs, Inc.

It is to be noted that People's Songs, Inc. has been designated a Communist front organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report, page 392.

The "Daily Worker" dated April 10, 1947 reflects in an article on page 8, column 1, that People's Songs, Inc. would present "Songs from the Mine Fields" at Irving Plaza, New York City, and OSCAR BRAND was listed as one of the singers.

The "Daily Worker" dated March 17, 1948 reflects on page 13, column 3, a photograph of "People's Songsters" and included in this group was OSCAR BRAND. This article stated that the above group was putting folk songs and labor tunes in a musical background for a movie based on the May Day Parade of 1947.

The "Daily Worker" dated March 26, 1948 reflects an article on page 12, column 1, entitled, "People's Songs, Inc. Presents 'Un-American' Hootenanny" ... with a number of entertainers including OSCAR BRAND. The above affair was to be held at the Irving Plaza, 15 Irving Place, Manhattan, New York.

The May 18, 1948 issue of the "Daily Worker" reflects an article on page 13, column 4, which states in effect that People's Songs would present a Spring "Hootenanny" on May 20 at Irving Plaza. Among the individuals featured at the above affair was OSCAR BRAND.

The "Daily Worker" dated December 21, 1948 reflects on page 13, column 2, an article entitled, "Brotherhood 'Hootenanny' Xmas Eve", in which it is stated that "new and old songs of peace and brotherhood feature People's Songs

NY 100-99586

Hootenanny, Xmas Eve, which will be presented at Irving Plaza, 15th Street and Irving Place, Friday, December 24, 1948, at 8 p.m. ... OSCAR BRAND, WNYC's 'shoeless troubadour', joins People's Songs' new singing quartet in the Yuletide celebration ..."

The "Daily Worker" dated March 6, 1949 reflects an article in Section 1, page 10, column 1, captioned, "People's Songs Presents ARTIE SHAW with String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, 3/7/49 ..." Among the other artists appearing with SHAW on the above program was OSCAR BRAND.

On January 18, 1950, Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, made available a Third Anniversary Issue of a group of issues of People's Songs from April 1947 to February 1948.

The above anniversary collection reflects in the February 1948 issue of People's Songs, Inc., 126 West 21st Street, New York City, a statement on page 2 of that issue to the effect ... "The National office has been forced to close its doors for lack of funds. The staff has been instructed to meet all outstanding financial obligations to the best of their ability and to take legal steps necessary to end the functioning of the national organization ..."

Among the individuals and organizations who sent greetings to the February 1948 issue of People's Songs, Inc., as reflected on page 4 of that issue, was OSCAR BRAND.

The February-March 1948 issue of People's Songs, Inc. reflects on page 19 a full-page greeting to People's Songs from People's Artists, exclusive agency for People's Songs performers, 126 West 21st Street, New York City. The above article reflects a photograph of OSCAR BRAND, "'Barefoot' Troubadour".

People's Artists, Inc.

The above organization has been declared a Communist "front" organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report, page 392.

NY 100-99586

On October 29, 1947, Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, furnished a pamphlet containing a list of artists performing for People's Artists, which furnished incidental information concerning those individuals. This article reflects that "OSCAR BRAND, produces, writes, directs and sings on his own weekly radio program. Aided by his guitar, he sings American folk and topical songs."

The April 30, 1950 issue of the "Daily Worker" reflects on page 25, column 3, that "OSCAR BRAND ... and The Balladeers" were scheduled to appear on Sunday, April 30, at 8 p.m. at the Panel Ballroom, 13 Astor Place, New York City. Tickets for the above occasion, this article reflected, could be obtained from People's Artists, 106 East 14th Street, New York City.

Progressive Citizens of America

The publication, "Red Channels", published by Counterattack, "the newsletter of facts to combat Communism," 55 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, reflects on page 27 that OSCAR BRAND, folk singer, acted as entertainer for the Progressive Citizens of America on March 19, 1947. According to this publication, the above was set forth on a handbill of that organization.

Miscellaneous Communist Party Activity

Progressive Party

Regarding the Progressive Party, it is to be noted that on July 19, 1949, Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, furnished a booklet entitled, "A Tribute to VITO MARCANTONIO", wherein the members of the National Office staff of the Progressive Party, as of April 30, 1949 were set forth. Among the members, as reflected in the above booklet, were JOHN ABT and CHARLES KRAMER. It is to be noted that JOHN ABT and CHARLES KRAMER have been identified by WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, former Communist Party member who was active in Soviet intelligence operations, in testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 3, 1948, as members of a Communist "underground" operating in Washington, D. C. in the 1930's.

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The above information is reflected in the August 3, 1948 issue of the "New York Times" in an article on page 1, column 1, entitled, "Red 'Underground' in Federal Posts Alleged by Editor".

On December 23, 1949, Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, advised that one of the officials of the Communist Party in Baltimore, Maryland, led a discussion on December 20, 1949 at an Executive Committee meeting of one of the Communist Party clubs there. The main subject of the discussion, according to the informant, was the specific assignments of various Communist Party members with particular reference to those who were working for the Progressive Party.

Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, advised on May 16, 1949 that a "Peace Rally" was held at Madison Square Garden, New York City, on that date, under the auspices of the Progressive Party and the Young Progressives of America. The above informant stated that the estimated attendance at this rally was between 7,500 and 8,000 people and included in the speakers for the evening was VITO MARCANTONIO, Mrs. PAUL ROBESON and OSCAR BRAND, who was introduced as a star of radio and television, who sang and played the guitar.

It is to be noted that VITO MARCANTONIO was the American Labor Party Congressman from New York in 1949.

It will further be noted that Confidential Informant T-3 has advised that PAUL ROBESON, husband of Mrs. PAUL ROBESON, was known to this informant as a "concealed" Communist in the years prior to 1945.

On June 29, 1949, Confidential Informant T-8 made available a press release concerning the "Young Progressives of America", dated June 24, 1949, which announced a dinner scheduled to be held at 13 Astor Place, New York City, on June 24. Among the entertainers for the above occasion was OSCAR BRAND.

On May 26, 1949, Confidential Informant T-8 advised that the name of OSCAR BRAND, telephone number Chelsea 2-0649, was known by this informant to be contained in a list of names of individuals and organizations who this informant believed to be Communists or Communist affiliates.

NY 100-99586

It is to be noted that the current Manhattan telephone directory reflects that the subject subscribes to telephone number Chelsea 2-0649.

An article entitled, "Red Fronts in Radio", appeared in the October 1949 issue of "The Sign", national Catholic monthly magazine, on page 13. This article reflected that OSCAR BRAND was one of a number of singers who have been cited in public records as having been associated with Communist causes or front organizations.

The "Daily Worker" dated May 14, 1948 reflects on page 6, columns 1 and 2, an article which announces that "Ballads for Un-Americans", written by OSCAR BRAND and featuring OSCAR BRAND and others, were for sale at the Jefferson Book Shop and the Workers Book Shop.

It is to be noted that the Jefferson Book Shop, 575 6th Avenue, New York City, is associated with the Jefferson School of Social Science of that address, which has been declared a Communist organization by the Attorney General, falling within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

On July 20, 1950, Confidential Informant T-11, of unknown reliability, but who was a fellow employee of the subject and who is acquainted with the subject, advised that OSCAR BRAND has a radio program which appears over New York City Radio Station WNYC at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings. This informant stated that the above program consisted of a rendition of folk songs. In addition, the informant stated BRAND has a radio program which appears on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. over Radio Station WABF. This informant recalled that when OSCAR BRAND was broadcasting over WNYC, the audience attending his broadcast consisted in general of young people, who the informant deemed were "radicals". The informant stated that BRAND, in his programs, would broadcast "workers' songs" which emphasized the minority problem and which, in the informant's opinion, were old-time American ballads re-written to appeal to the "masses", and which followed the Communist Party line.

The "New York Journal-American" dated September 1, 1950 reflects an article by HOWARD RUSHMORE entitled, "WNYC Screened to Bar Red Songs", in which it is stated that: "Folk singers and hill-billy specialists who have been linked with Communist front groups are being barred from municipally-owned Station WNYC, it was learned today ...

NY 100-99586

"SEYMOUR N. SIEGEL, Director of the tax-supported station, also has instructed his staff to carefully 'screen' all programs and to eliminate songs which 'might be considered subversive.'

"Center of attention in this action is a weekly program of folk music under the direction of OSCAR BRAND, who acts as master of ceremonies on the WNYC show...

"A month ago SIEGEL ordered a recording by singer, PAUL ROBESON, cut from the BRAND program and three other singers and musicians - PETE SEEGER, WOODY GUTHRIE and SUSAN REED - who formerly appeared on the folk song show have been absent for several months.

"SEEGER, GUTHRIE and Miss REED all were members or sponsors of 'People's Songs', a group cited by the California Un-American Activities Committee as a Communist front.

"SIEGEL said he first ordered the staff to screen this and other programs more than a year ago, after the weekly anti-Communist newsletter, 'Counterattack', charged that BRAND had also supported Communist front organizations.

"I talked with BRAND and told him emphatically that WNYC wanted no part of singers or musicians who were linked to such groups,' SIEGEL told the N. Y. Journal-American.

"BRAND admitted he had appeared before the organizations named by "Counterattack", but he said he appeared only as a paid performer. He not only denied he was a Communist, but said he was opposed to Communism and was not connected with any subversive group."

"BRAND is listed by the official bulletin of People's Songs, March 1946, as a member of the Advisory Committee of the organization named a Communist front by the California Committee.

"SIEGEL said BRAND was a non-salaried master of ceremonies whose program was retained 'on a month to month basis ...'"

NY 100-99586

The following Confidential Informants, of known reliability, had no information concerning the subject: T-12, T-13, T-14, T-15, T-16, and T-17.

Other Activities

Activities in Radio

The "Daily Worker" for October 29, 1948 reflects on page 13, columns 3 and 5, an article which, in effect, urged the readers to tune in on the subject's radio show on WNYC.

The "Daily Worker" dated May 3, 1949 reflects an article on page 13, column 3, which stated that OSCAR BRAND has been engaged by CBS to work on the folk music to be used on the next production of the CBS Documentary Unit being written by NORMAN CORWIN. According to this article, OSCAR BRAND was currently presenting the "Folk Song Festival" on Radio Station WNYC and was active on behalf of the Folk Music Section of WNBT's Americana Series.

The "Daily Worker" dated July 13, 1949, page 11, column 3, reflects an article entitled, "CORWIN's New Documentary 'Citizens of the World'", which reflects that CBS presented the new NORMAN CORWIN Documentary, "Citizens of the World", based on the work of individuals in the international organizations established by the United Nations. Among the individuals who aided in the above production was OSCAR BRAND, who contributed a song.

The "New York Times" dated June 25, 1950, page 8X, reflects that the program, "OSCAR BRAND, Folk Songs", appears on Radio Station WNYC at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

The "New York Times" dated March 25, 1951 reflects on page 14X, column 7, that OSCAR BRAND would present a program of folk songs at 6 p.m. over New York City Municipal Radio Station WNYC on that date.

Miscellaneous Activities

The "Daily Worker" dated January 28, 1948, page 13, column 3, reflects a photograph of the subject with the caption, "OSCAR BRAND, young American Balladeer, will be

NY 100-99586

"featured in a folk songs and blues concert to be presented at the Village Grove, 100 7th Avenue South, Friday evening, January 30, at 8:30 p.m. This will be the first in the series of informal gatherings by the Folk Song Concert Series ..."

The "Daily Worker" dated December 10, 1948 reflects on page 12, column 3, a photograph of the subject captioned, "OSCAR BRAND will emcee the 'Folk Festival for Freedom' program at the Panel Ballroom, 13 Astor Place, tonight at 8:30."

The "Daily Worker" dated December 7, 1949 reflects an advertisement on page 8, column 5, captioned, "Let's Have an Old-Fashioned Hootenanny", which was to be held on December 9, 1949 at the Penthouse, 13 Astor Place, New York City. Among the entertainers scheduled to appear at the above affair was OSCAR BRAND.

Background and Description

Confidential Informant T-1 advised on March 26, 1951, that OSCAR BRAND, who has resided at 300 West 12th Street, New York City, since January 9, 1947, was born February 7, 1920, at Winnipeg, Canada; that his wife, URSULA BRAND, resides with subject at that address. Informant stated that subject has Social Security Number 125-09-7362. Informant advised that subject is a member of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, New York City. Informant could furnish no further background information and could not advise as to subject's business or professional affiliations.

NY 100-99586

Miss CLARISSA DONAHUE, Administration Office, New York City Municipal Radio Station WNYC, Municipal Building, Manhattan, New York, advised on March 26, 1951 that OSCAR BRAND is currently featured on a one-half hour Sunday program from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Miss DONAHUE stated that GUNTHER LAWRENCE writes the script for the above show, which consists of a folk-song program.

Miss CONSTANCE JESSELSON, Program Department, New York City Municipal Broadcasting Station WNYC, advised that subject has had the above half-hour radio program on WNYC for the past several years. She stated that subject is not employed by WNYC, and BRAND does not receive remuneration for his weekly Sunday radio program over WNYC. She stated that GUNTHER LAWRENCE writes the scripts for the above program and was believed by her to have been formerly employed by WNYC.

Confidential Informant T-19, of known reliability, advised that he had no information concerning the subject.

The following description of the subject was obtained from Confidential Informants T-1 and T-20, of unknown reliability, but who is an acquaintance of the subject:

Name:	OSCAR BRAND
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Age:	31 (born February 7, 1920, Winnipeg, Canada)
Residence:	300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York
Height:	6'
Weight:	170 lbs.
Build:	Slim
Hair:	Dark brown (wavy)
Eyes:	Brown (wears glasses)
Occupation:	Entertainer (folk-song singer)
Marital Status:	Married
Relatives:	Wife, URSULA BRAND
Country of Birth:	Canada

- P E N D I N G -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that on October 15, 1940 the name of one OSCAR BRAND appeared on the membership list of the American Students Union at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York.

It is to be noted that the American Students Union has been cited as a Communist front organization by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, in its report dated March 29, 1944, page 159.

On May 1, 1950, Confidential Informant T-18, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR BRAND, WNYC's "Shoeless Troubadour", was among a group of individuals scheduled to speak at a rally which was being held for the DARRELL family on April 27, 1950 at Public School 88, Bronx, New York. This informant stated that the above rally was being held to back the right of a Negro family - the DARRELL family - to live at 200 Marcy Place, Bronx, New York. Informant stated that this rally was sponsored by the Committee Against Discrimination, Sephardic Jewish Center, 122 East 169th Street, Bronx, New York.

NY 100-99586

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will contact Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, relative to any information regarding subject's citizenship status.

Will ascertain other radio employments of subject.

Will await Bureau's decision regarding FD-122 which has been submitted.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identities of the Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA HENRY C. RUDA, dated at New York, April 9, 1951, are as follows:

- T-1 Mrs. GRACE GRANGER, Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, 1265 6th Avenue, Manhattan, New York City, who was contacted by the writer. Mrs. GRANGER, it will be noted, is a relative of SA JOHN C. STOKES, who requested her identity be kept confidential.
- T-2 Pretext telephone call to Chelsea 2-0649, residence of OSCAR BRAND, 300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York.
- T-3 LOUIS F. BUDENZ, former Managing Editor, "Daily Worker", and a Communist Party functionary until October 1945.
- T-4 Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, contacted by SA AUGUST J. MICEK.
- T-5 [REDACTED]
- T-6 [REDACTED], who made available information in the form of a group of issues of "People's Songs" to SA's BENJAMIN O. CANTY and WILLIAM W. STICKIE, which information is available in the files of the New York Office.
- T-7 [REDACTED]
- T-8 [REDACTED]

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd)

T-9 Baltimore Confidential Informant
FOIA(b) (7) - (D) [redacted] who made the information
 available to SA JESSE C. PARKER,
 JR., as set forth in Baltimore
 letter to the Bureau dated
 December 30, 1949.

T-10 [redacted]

T-11 FRANK PULASKI, 240 Sullivan Street,
 New York City, radio and television
 actor, and formerly staff announcer,
 WNYC, New York, who was interviewed
 by SA ALBERT J. KLEIN.

T-12 [redacted] contacted by SA EDWARD W.
 BUCKLEY.

T-13 [redacted] contacted by SA EDWARD W.
 BUCKLEY.

T-14 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T.
 CLANCY.

T-15 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T.
 CLANCY.

T-16 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T.
 CLANCY.

T-17 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD T.
 CLANCY.

T-18 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD H.
 BLASSER.

T-19 [redacted], who made the information
 available to SA CHARLES A. DONELAN.

NY 100-99586

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (Cont'd)

T-20

CONSTANCE JESSELSON, Program Department, New York City Municipal Radio, WNYC, Municipal Building, Manhattan, New York, who was contacted by the writer and who requested her identity be kept confidential with regard to certain information furnished.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to New York, 11/8/50.

Security Index card approved and prepared, two copies attached. Place description and photograph on reverse side of geographical card. Cards should be filed in your Security Index.

Director, FBI

April 9, 1951

SAC, NY

OSCAR BRAND
SM-C
(Bufile 100-370969)

*S.I. card filed
6-26-51 mat*
TRANSMIT TO New York OFFICE

X It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

— The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME OSCAR BRAND

ALIASES _____

RACE White SEX Male NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST X SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____

DATE OF BIRTH 2/7/20 PLACE OF BIRTH Winnipeg, Canada

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 300 West 12th Street, Manhattan, New York

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

Encs. (5)

HCR:LEJ
100-99586

NONE
*0-1 from 7/17/51
retd. by 7/27/51
advising not to be
submitted by 8/20/51*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1951	
H.C. RUDA	

100-99586-8

Protest Leftists On City's Radio

By HOWARD RUSHMORE

An anti-Communist committee of veterans' and civic leaders today asked Mayor Impellitteri to investigate appearance of entertainers linked with Communist fronts on tax-supported radio station WNYC.

The group, which represents the American Legion, VFW, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled War Veterans as well as borough civic and fraternal organizations said the situation at WNYC had "been of grave concern to our committee for some time."

The statement addressed to the Mayor was signed by Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, co-ordinator of the Joint Committee Against Communism.

"Why should the taxpayers of the city," the statement said, "finance the frequent appearance of entertainers linked to Communist front groups?"

RABBI URGES PROBE

Rabbi Schultz also urged the Mayor to investigate the situation before "a Senate subcommittee spotlights the conditions prevailing at our city-owned station."

The N. Y. Journal-American revealed yesterday that Oscar Brand, master of ceremonies for WNYC's "Folksong Festival" had as his guest of honor on last Sunday's broadcast a guitar player named Tony Kraber.

Hand cfr of list info on
OSCAR BRAND
TONY KRABER
#12 for 8/10/51

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1
SEC. 2
SEC. 3
SEC. 4
SEC. 5
SEC. 6
SEC. 7
SEC. 8
SEC. 9
SEC. 10
SEC. 11

NIGHT SUPERVISOR
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

C.C.B.

*100-99586

100-99586-12

100-51820-154 cly 9/23/44
100-80374-177 p4

65-358-145 p10
62-9462-66
100-80374-135
100-80945-104
12/4/48

100-50870-132 p19
100-65568
100-4931-4/69
100-8522-1A83
100-80374-158 p67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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AUG 7 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	
H. Ruda	

100-102379-103
100-80374-61
100-140265
100-96065

TITLE
CLASS
From *Journal American*
NY
DATED AUG 7 1951
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Both have appeared as entertainers or sponsors of organizations named by the Attorney-General or Congressional committees as under the leadership and control of the Communist party.

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee heard executive session testimony here last month concerning both folk-song specialists. The committee has not yet made public its findings.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - NEW YORK	

McCarran Detects Something Revolting In Songs on City Radio

By JOHN RODDY

THE LATEST NEWS: The McCarran Internal Security Committee is looking into the radio industry and has started by investigating WNYC, the city-owned station. This move follows release yesterday of the committee's report on "Subversive Infiltration in the Telegraph Industry."

BEHIND THE NEWS: A couple of guitar-strumming folk singers appear to be first targets for McCarran in his investigation of the wireless arm of America's vital communications network.

Oscar Brand, who conducts "Folksong Festival" every Sunday night at 6 over WNYC, was under brisk discussion during recent meetings of a McCarran subcommittee here. Witnesses were obtained to tell the investigators that folk songs often contain dangerous thoughts.

The committee yesterday was given information about Brand's program of last Sunday night, when he had as his guest star Tony Kraber, another folk singer. Kraber, who is assistant director of special events in the news department at the Columbia Broadcasting System, was described to the Senate probers as one whose "hobby is revolutionary war songs."

The accusation was correct. Kraber has just come out with a record album of American Revolutionary War songs.

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1

SEC. 2
SEC. 3
SEC. 4
SEC. 5
SEC. 6
SEC. 7
SEC. 8
SEC. 9
SEC. 11

~~SEC. 10~~
NIGHT SUPERVISOR
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

TITLE

CLASS

From *Daily Compass*
NY

DATED AUG 7 1951

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 9 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	
<i>H. Euda</i>	<i>HCR</i>

100-99586-11

Loyalty Probers Turn to WNYC

By HOWARD RUSHMORE

Frequent appearance of entertainers linked with Communist front groups on municipally owned radio station WNYC is being probed by Senate Committee investigators, it was learned today.

Testimony has been given before executive sessions of the Senate Sub-Committee on Internal Security concerning the tax supported station and particularly a folk song program headed by Oscar Brand.

Witnesses told the Senate Investigators the Communist Party for years has utilized such folk song programs to feature Red entertainers and songs which carried the party line in their lyrics.

Brand, who has appeared before Communist branch meetings as an entertainer, had Tony Kraber as his guest of honor on last night's "Folk Song Festival" on WNYC.

Kraber was introduced by Brand as a "CBS executive" whose hobby is "revolutionary war songs." A witness testified recently before a Senate subcommittee here that Kraber over a period of 10 years had been connected with such Communist fronts as the American League for Peace and Democracy, American Writers Congress, Jefferson School, Peoples Songs and the Theatre Arts Committee.

Brand has acknowledged that he appeared before Communist and pro-Communist front groups but according to Seymour N. Seigel, WNYC Director, Brand has denied being a Communist.

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1
SEC. 2
SEC. 3
SEC. 4
SEC. 5
SEC. 6
SEC. 7
SEC. 8
SEC. 9
SEC. 11

NIGHT SUPERVISOR
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

CCB.

TITLE

CLASS

From *Journal American*
NY

DATED AUG. 6 1951

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-99586-10

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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AUG 9 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	
H. Ruler	H. Ruler

NY: 100 - 99586

9/12/51

Re: Oscar ^{Stanley} BRAND, was Oscar Brown
Security Matter - (

The following references were reviewed by the writer and all pertinent information therein found to be identical with the subject have been incorporated in the report of SA. H. C. Ruda dated 9-21-51 at New York.

Those found to be Identical:

OSCAR BRAND

* 100 - 99586

100 - 80374 - 369 p 86 A

" - 81674 - 18 p 2

" - 93764 - 366

" - 81674 - 17 p 2

100 - " - 20

100 - 91410 - 24 p 2 A; 38

100 - 80675 - 307

63 - 15360 - 565 p 61
p 59

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
OCT 8 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	
MAG ALENNON <i>[initials]</i>	

100 - 99586 - 13

SA. H. C. Ruda

12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-99586

PMC:ASE

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 9/27/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/23; 8/11, 21, 29; 9/6-8, 12/51	REPORT MADE BY HENRY C. RUDA
TITLE <u>CHANGED:</u> OSCAR STANLY BRAND, wa. Oscar Brown			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject has derivative citizenship through father's naturalization, 3/23/37, EDNY. BRAND continues in non-remunerative position as master of ceremonies for WNYC's "Folksong Festival" and is employed as a "free lance" radio and television entertainer through his agent, GUNTHER LAWRENCE, 47 West 63rd St., NYC. Subject associated with following Communist organizations: "People's Artists, Inc." in 1949; "Young People's Records, Inc." in 1947 to 1950; "Young Progressives of America" in 1949; "Distributive Workers Union" in 1951. Public protest in press regarding entertainers linked with Communist fronts appearing on subject's WNYC program set out. BRAND reported acquainted with Mrs. LOUISE SARANT, wife of ALFRED SARANT, alleged Soviet espionage agent affiliated with JULIUS ROSENBERG. No criminal record at NYC.

- C DECLASSIFICATION AS OF 6080

7/9/77

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE 	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">100 99586 14</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (100-370969) ③ - New York <i>and</i>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

NY 100-99586

DETAILS: The title of this report is being marked "Changed" so as to reflect the full name of the subject, OSCAR STANLY BRAND, as reflected in the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, and the name, OSCAR BROWN, inasmuch as the subject is professionally known by that name according to the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York.

CITIZENSHIP

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, reflect on petition, No. 219963, filed in the Eastern District Court, Brooklyn, New York, that ISIDORE ZANGWILL BRAND, 4914 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, became a naturalized United States citizen on March 23, 1937. According to these records, ISIDORE BRAND was born on September 15, 1884, at Botosani, Roumania; he married BEATRICE E. ZINKOFF on December 24, 1911, at Winnipeg, Canada, and had the following children born in Canada:

EDITH BRAND, born November 1, 1912.

HARRY LEON BRAND, born March 28, 1916.

OSCAR STANLY BRAND, born February 7, 1920.

It is further reflected in the above records that ISIDORE BRAND became a Canadian citizen in 1907, and entered the United States for permanent residence at Noyes, Minnesota, on September 21, 1923.

EMPLOYMENT

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, reported on August 29, 1951, that the subject is the acting master of ceremonies on the New York radio station, WNYC, in a program which is heard every Sunday evening and entitled "Folksong Festival". The above informant stated that BRAND received no remuneration for this employment, however, the informant added that subject was a "free lance" radio and television entertainer who obtained his employment through his agent, GUNTHER LAWRENCE, 47 West 63rd Street, New York City.

NY 100-99586

The informant added that BRAND was believed to have some radio and television contracts for Autumn, 1951.

COMMUNIST FRONT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

People's Artists, Inc.

People's Artists, Inc., was cited as a Communist front organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report on page 392.

On February 25, 1949, Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, made available information obtained from monitoring the bank account of People's Artists, Inc., New York City. The above informant made available the following information regarding funds which the subject received from that organization:

<u>Date of Check</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Bank Cashed at</u>
2/3/49	663	OSCAR BRAND	\$21.75	Manufacturers' Trust Company
2/14/49	668	OSCAR BRAND	\$30.45	Manufacturers' Trust Company

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, also made information available obtained from monitoring the bank account of People's Artists, Inc., New York City, which information reflects funds received by the subject during March and April, 1949.

<u>Date of Check</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Bank Cashed at</u>
3/11/49	OSCAR BRAND	\$47.85	Manufacturers' Trust Company
4/11/49	OSCAR BRAND	\$26.50	Manufacturers' Trust Company

The above information made available by Confidential Informants T-2 and T-3 is not to be made public except through the usual procedure following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

YOUNG PROGRESSIVES OF AMERICA

Confidential Informants T-12 and T-13, both of known reliability, have advised that the Communist Party has urged its members on various occasions to support the Young Progressives of America.

In August, 1948 Confidential Informant T-14, of known reliability, reported that the Young Progressive Citizens of America formally merged with and became the "backbone" of the Young Progressives of America in July, 1948 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Progressive Citizens of America was cited as a "new and broader Communist front in the entire United States" formed in September, 1946, at the direction of "Communist steering committees" from the "Communist-dominated National Citizens Political Action Committee" and the "Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions", by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report, page 354.

On June 22, 1949, Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, made available information reflecting that the Young Progressives of America were planning to hold a testimonial dinner for PETER SEEGER on June 24, 1949, at 13 Astor Place, New York City. The above informant stated that OSCAR BRAND was one of a group of individuals who was listed as an entertainer for the occasion.

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised on June 30, 1950 that PETER SEEGER was a member of the Communist Party in 1945. The informant obtained this information from ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG and from V. J. JEROME. This informant described TRACHTENBERG as an official of the Communist Party and V. J. JEROME as another Communist Party member.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S RECORDS, INC.

The Young People's Records, Inc., was cited as a Communist front organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report, pages 390 to 392.

On March 15, 1951, Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR BRAND had been writing an almanac series of records for Young People's Records, Inc.

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, also reported that OSCAR BRAND had lent his efforts in connection with the following records of the above organization:

NY 100-99586

"Let's All Join In" - September, 1947.
"May American Almanac" - May, 1948.
"December American Almanac" - December, 1948.
"August American Almanac" - August, 1949.
"November American Almanac" - November, 1949.
"January American Almanac" - January, 1950.

Other Communist Activities

On April 5, 1951, Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised that OSCAR BRAND was presently engaged on the New York City radio station, WNYC, as a featured artist on a folksong program.

This informant stated that OSCAR BRAND was said to be a Communist Party member in "Party" circles.

According to the above informant, the subject was active in supporting the past presidential campaign of HENRY WALLACE and BRAND also appeared from time to time on the "Nightclub programs" of Local 65 of the "Distributive Trades Union" at 134 Hester Place, New York City.

The "C.I.O. News", published by the Congress of Industrial Organizations for February 20, 1950, page 6, column one, reflects that the C.I.O. Executive Board had expelled the United Office and Professional Workers of America from the Congress of Industrial Organizations effective March 1, 1950, for "consistent, unwavering support of the Communist Party". The board acted on a report by a committee which found that "never in the history of the UOPWA has any policy been adopted which in any way runs counter to the policies of the Communist Party or the interests of the Soviet Union as those interests are reflected in the program of the Communist Party".

According to the October 22, 1950, issue of the "Union Voice", the UOPWA had merged with the "Distributive Workers Union (DWU) and "Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers" (FTAAW) in which a new union to be known as the "Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America."

NY 100-99586

This merger took place at the founding convention of the new union held at New York City on October 7, 1950.

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, has advised that Local 65 of the Distributive Workers Union is a Communist run national union made up of the Communist Party line locals which seceded from the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union, CIO, in the fall of 1948.

In connection with another investigation, Bureau agents on July 19, 1950, interviewed ALFRED SARANT, Cayuga Heights Road, RFD 1, Ithaca, New York, and his wife and on that date SARANT executed a waiver authorizing Bureau agents to conduct a search of his residence at that address. In connection with this search a Bates List Finder was located and among the names, addresses of concerns, and telephone numbers of individuals in the New York City area that appeared in the above list finder was the following: "BRAND, OSCAR".

Mrs. LOUISE SARANT, the wife of ALFRED SARANT, was also interviewed on the above date at her residence and she stated that OSCAR BRAND is a folk song singer whom she met through BETTY SANDERS, a friend of hers, who is also a folk song singer.

The "Daily Worker", an east coast Communist daily newspaper, dated April 4, 1948, Section 1, page 10, column 4, reflects an advertisement which indicated that "People's Songs", Brooklyn, New York, was presenting a program entitled "Songs for Action" at the St. Felix Street Playhouse and among those scheduled to perform was BETTY SANDERS.

People's Songs, Inc., has been designated a Communist front organization by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report, page 392.

On July 10, 1951, Confidential Informant T-10, of unknown reliability, but who is in a position to have certain information, advised that JULIUS ROSENBERG, had confided to this informant that ALFRED SARANT was a "member of his organization". The above informant understood this quoted phrase to mean that SARANT was a Soviet espionage agent and was affiliated with the Rosenberg Soviet espionage apparatus.

NY 100-99586

It is to be noted that JULIUS ROSENBERG was sentenced to the death penalty on April 5, 1951, for conspiracy to commit espionage.

ALFRED SARANT, on August 9, 1951, according to information furnished by Mr. DONALD HAYNS, Tuscon, Arizona, fled the United States.

Confidential Informant T-10 had further advised that ALFRED SARANT is currently believed to be in Europe.

The "Journal American" dated August 6, 1951, contains an article by HOWARD RUSHMORE entitled "Loyalty Probers Turn to WNYC" in which is stated in part as follows:

"Frequent appearance of entertainers linked with Communist front groups on municipally owned radio station WNYC is being probed by Senate Committee investigators, it was learned today.

"Testimony has been given before executive sessions of the Senate Sub Committee on Internal Security concerning the tax supported station and particularly a folk song program headed by OSCAR BRAND.

"Witnesses told the Senate Investigators the Communist Party for years had utilized such folk song programs to feature Red entertainers and songs which carried the party line in their lyrics.

"BRAND, who has appeared before Communist branch meetings as an entertainer, had TONY KRABER as his guest of honor on last night's 'Folk Song Festival' on WNYC.

"KRABER was introduced by BRAND as a 'CBS executive' whose hobby is 'revolutionary war songs'. A witness testified recently before a Senate sub committee here that KRABER over a period of 10 years had been connected with such Communist fronts as the American League for Peace and Democracy, American Writers Congress, Jefferson School, Peoples Songs and the Theatre Arts Committee.

"BRAND has acknowledged that he appeared before Communist and pro-Communist front groups but according to SEYMOUR N. SEIGEL, WNYC Director, BRAND has denied being a Communist.

NY 100-99586

The "Daily Compass" dated August 7, 1951, contains an article entitled "McCarran Detects Something Revolting in Songs on City Radio" in which it is stated that the American Internal Security Committee is investigating allegations of subversive infiltration in the radio industry. According to this article "OSCAR BRAND, who conducts 'Folksong Festival' every Sunday night at 6 over WNYC, was under brisk discussion during recent meetings of a McCarran subcommittee here....."

The above article further stated that TONY KRABER, who is associate director of special events in the News Department of the Columbia Broadcasting System, appeared on subject's recent radio program as a guest artist. It is further obtained from the article that KRABER has recently published a record album of American Revolutionary War Songs.

The "Journal American" dated August 7, 1951, contains an article entitled "Protest Leftists on City's Radio" in which is stated in part as follows:

"An anti-Communist committee of veterans and civic leaders today asked Mayor Impellitteri to investigate appearance of entertainers linked with Communist fronts on tax-supported radio station WNYC....."

"The New York Journal American revealed yesterday that OSCAR BRAND, master of ceremonies for WNYC's 'Folksong Festival' had as his guest of honor on last Sunday's broadcast a guitar player named TONY KRABER."

Regarding TONY KRABER, it is to be noted that the "Daily Worker" dated September 11, 1947, page 8, reflects that TONY KRABER, guitar player, was an entertainer for People's Songs.

"The "Daily Worker" dated May 7, 1948, page 8, reflects TONY KRABER was an entertainer for the American League for Peace and Democracy.

The American League for Peace and Democracy has been declared a Communist organization by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. The organization known as People's Songs has been previously identified in this report.

NY 100-99586

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Confidential Informant T-11, of known reliability, advised on August 29, 1951, that the files of the Payroll Department, Radio Station WCBS, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City, contain no record of any previous employment of OSCAR BRAND with that radio station.

Miss HOPE TRAVIS, personnel director, Radio Station WNBC, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, advised on August 29, 1951, that no record of any past employment of the subject could be located in the files of this company.

The records of the Bureau of Marriage Licenses, New York City, reflect on certificate No 24164, that OSCAR S. BRAND, 39 East 10th Street, New York City, was married to URSULA J. BRENNAN, 39 East 10th Street, New York City, on September 23, 1945, at New York City.

According to these records, the subject stated that he was born on February 7, 1920, at Winnipeg, Canada; that he was employed as a writer for the United States Army; that this was his first marriage; and that his father, ISIDORE Z. BRAND, was born in Roumania and his mother, BEATRICE SCHULMAN, had been born in Russia.

Subject's wife stated on these records that she was born on March 27, 1920, in New York City; that she was employed as a secretary and that her father THOMAS A. BRENNAN, and her mother, GLADYS M. MAC, had both been born in the United States. The subject and his wife both indicated on these records that neither had been married before.

The files of the Board of Election Records, New York City, reflect that in 1950, OSCAR BRAND, 300 West 12th Street, New York City, registered in that election stating that he was 30 years of age, married, that he resided 16 years in the State, and that he had been born in Canada.

It was further reflected in these records that the subject's wife, URSULA BRAND, of the above address also registered for the 1950 election stating that she was married, that she had resided in the state and city for 21 plus years, and that she was 21 plus years of age.

NY 100-99856

According to these records the subject and his wife registered in the 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950 elections, both indicating a preference for one of the major political parties.

The records of the Credit Bureau of New York City, which were checked by SA GORDON C. LUND, reflect that OSCAR BRAND, 300 West 12th Street, Apartment 3-H, has a satisfactory credit rating and that he is employed in a non-remunerative position with the New York City radio station, WNYC, at the Municipal Building, New York City.

According to these records, the subject previously resided at 39 East 10th Street, New York City; his wife is a photographers model registered with John Robert Powers Agency, New York City, and the subject maintains a bank account in the Marine Midland Bank, 130 Chambers Street, New York City. It was further reflected on these records that the subject is also known professionally by the name of OSCAR BROWN.

The Criminal Division of the New York City Police Department, which was checked by SA AUGUST J. MICEK, reflected no record of the subject.

- C L O S E D -

- 10 -

99586

ADMINISTRATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant mentioned in the report of
SA HENRY C. RUDA, New York, dated SEP 27 1951, are as
follows:

- T-1 Pretext telephone call made to GUNTHER
LAWRENCE, artists representative, 47 West
63rd Street, New York City; telephone number
Susquehanna 7-5070, made by the writer.
- T-2 W. HALLEM, operations officer, Manufacturers'
Trust Company, 130 Fifth Avenue, New York
City, who made the information available
to SA CHRISTOPHER J. MORAN.
- T-3 WILLIAM MORGAN, assistant manager, Manufacturers'
Trust Company, 130 Fifth Avenue, New York
City, who made the information available
to SA CHRISTOPHER J. MORAN.
- T-4
- T-5 LOUIS BUDENZ, former Communist Party
member and former managing editor of the
"Daily Worker", who is at the present time
an assistant professor at Fordham University,
New York City. Mr. BUDENZ was interviewed
by SA WILLIAM J. McCARTHY.

T-6

New C

T-7

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NY 100-99586

ADMINISTRATIVE (cont'd.)

- T-8 [redacted], who furnished information to SA EDWARD W. BUCKLEY.
- T-9 DIO, Third Naval District, New York City.
- T-10 [redacted], who was interviewed by SA JOHN A. HARRINGTON and SA ROBERT F. ROYAL.
- T-11 A pretext telephone call made by the writer to Miss MARY GAGNAN, payroll Department, WCBS, 485 Madison Ave., New York City.
- T-12 [redacted] contacted by SA CHARLES F. HEINER.
- T-13 [redacted] contacted by SA RICHARD H. BLASSER.
- T-14 [redacted] contacted by SA ARTHUR E. DOOLEY.

IDENTITY OF SE's

The records of INS, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, were checked by SE ROBERT M. HALL.

The files of the Board of Elections, New York City, were checked by SE CLINTON E. POLLOCK.

REFERENCE

Report of SA HENRY C. RUDA, New York, 4/9/51.

OSCAR BRAND HOPS ON WAR BANDWAGON

By IRWIN SILBER

Oscar Brand, whose "Folk Song Festival" on WNYC has frequently presented many of America's most gifted performers, has taken the long step toward complete servility to the witchhunters and the Truman war program. In a special statement issued Oct. 26 at the Cooper Union Forum, Brand publicly renounced his previous identification with progressive causes, in a virulent, inflammatory redbaiting statement.

The statement, which concludes with the remark that "the presentation of traditional material is impossible where the Communists wield their influential censorship," comes on the heels of attacks on Brand by reactionary forces in the City Council and some preliminary investigation of the folk-singer by agents of the Un-American Committee.

Thus, Oscar Brand becomes the third well-known folk singer in recent years to bow to the pressures of the cold war and take his exit from the people's cultural movement. Tom Glazer and Josh White deserted their former principles previously. Glazer, incidentally, is reported doing quite well financially with his musical tribute to Douglas MacArthur, "Old Soldiers Never Die."

Among the "pressures" Brand is reported objecting to were protests from many listeners to his performance of "The Un-Reconstructed Rebel," a pro-Confederate Civil War Song. This joining together of opportunism and white chauvin-

ism is the surest sign of the degeneration of the former folk singer.

In addition to dissociating himself from former friends and co-workers in the folk music field, Brand dutifully made his contribution to the Cold War with an attack on folk music in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Democracies. He dismisses the tremendous development of people's culture in the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Hungary by saying "... in the satellite (sic) countries, 'folk-songs' praising the Soviet and its blessings are the only folk music allowed."

Brand, who has never visited any of these countries, is sharply contradicted by many of his former co-workers who have actually visited and participated in some of the tremendous cultural demonstrations in Eastern Europe over the past few years.

Betty Sanders, Hope Foye, and Ernie Lieberman are just three of the many American folk-singers whose personal experiences in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany and the Soviet Union completely disprove Brand's hypocritical and lying statement.

The statement as a whole is so filled with this kind of war propaganda that further examination of it is unnecessary. Oscar Brand may assume that he has now "made amends" to Wall Street for his former excursions into the realm of people's music. But we hasten to assure him that the "Un-Americans" are not done with him. His

new-found "respectability" will last only as long as he actively continues his self-debasement in the interests of war and fascism.

Oscar Brand used to be one of many singers who included such songs as "Which Side Are You On" in their repertoires. Oscar has sung, on occasion, the following lines from that song:

"Don't scab for the bosses,
Don't listen to their lies . . ."

Oscar Brand will not be singing that workingclass song any more. But dozens of people's singers will be leading hundreds of thousands of workers in that song and many others in the struggle for peace, freedom, and a decent life.

(Irwin Silber is executive secretary of People's Artists.)

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. Daily Worker
DATED 11/7/51 pg. 7 col. 1-3

-99586-15A

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....

NOV 26 1951
FBI - NEW YORK

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York (100-99586)

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: OSCAR STANLY BRAND, wa.
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bufile 100-370969

DATE: October 22, 1951

MR. SCHEIDT
MR. WHELAN
MR. HARGETT
MR. LINSPIE
MR. GRANVILLE
MR. HAMILTON
MR. VVVIS
MR. LENNAN
MR. MARCHESSAULT
MR. McANDREWS
NIGHT SUPERVISOR
MR. RAGAN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. WALSH
MR. WOHL
CHIEF CLERK
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

Re report of Special Agent Henry C. Ruda dated September 27, 1951.

It is noted that the synopsis of referenced report reflects that the subject's father was naturalized on 3-23-27 whereas the details of the report reflect his naturalization as 3-23-37. The Bureau should be advised which of these dates is correct.

On page 4 of referenced report the Progressive Citizens of America is cited and thereafter information concerning the Young Progressives of America is set out. The information concerns two separate organizations and, therefore, you are requested to make the appropriate changes so that the report will be correct. Corrected pages should be submitted to the Bureau and the copies of this report maintained in your office should be corrected accordingly.

100-99586-15

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
OCT 24 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	
H.C. Ruda	

NY: 100-99586

12/5/51

Memo:

Re: Oscar Stanley BRAND, wa.
Security Matter - C

On November 20, 1951, the writer interviewed the Superintendent - John O'Sullivan - of the apartment building at 300 W. 12th St, MAN, New York, in connection with another matter, and the following information regarding the above captioned subject was obtained.

Oscar Brand continues to reside in Apt. # 3-H (at the above address) with his wife. According to Mrs. O'Sullivan the Subject has no children.

He said that Brand is still the Master of Ceremonies of the radio program "Folksong Festival" which is featured over the NY City Radio Station WNYC - at 6 PM on Sunday evenings. 100-99586-16

Indexed
for

Index
on page 2

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 5 1951	
FBI - NEW YORK	

jm

2.

Mr. O'Sullivan advised that for the period from Decoration Day to Labor Day 1951, the subject acted as master of ceremonies and as head of entertainment at a Resort Hotel at Schroon Lake, Vermont(?)

According to Mr. O'Sullivan, the above Resort Hotel is a favorite summer congregating place for Communists of New York City. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that "Blackie" Meyers, former NMU president, who resided at this address until 1947 or 1948, had invited the O'Sullivans up to Schroon Lake for a vacation in 1944 or 1945. He stated that although he was unable to go, his wife went up for a two wk. vacation; however, she returned after a week, saying that the above resort was a congregating place for Communists.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that Brand was removed to have tentative contracts with WCBS, television on the Steve Allen Show, which appears at 12:45 PM every day.

A prefiled telephone call made to WCBS, on 12/5/51 failed to reflect that the subject was

Scheduled for any present or future programs
over WCB S.

The following description of the subject
and his wife was obtained from Mr. O'Sullivan:

Oscar Brand

5' 11"

180 lbs.

Dark Brown (curly)

Glasses (or contact
lenses)

Ht.

Weight

Hair

Eyes

Mrs. Oscar Brand

5' 7"

105

Sandy (short.)

Blue

S.A. H. C. Ruda

Director, FBI (100-370969)

December 12, 1951

SAC, New York

OSCAR STANLY BRAND, wa.
SECURITY MATTER - C

gmf
ReBulet New York, 10/22/51, and rerep SA HENRY C.
RUDA, New York, 9/27/51.

Enclosed herewith are corrected copies of pages 1,
4 and 12 of rerep. These pages have already been substituted in
the New York file copies and it is requested that the Bureau
replace these pages in their copies of instant report.

Encls. - 15

HCR:ASR
100-99586
gaw

100-99586-174

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM

RE: OSCAR BRAND

This Office File 100-99586

Bufile 100-370969

The following is the most recent residence address, place of employment and employment address of the above subject as contained on the subject's security index card.

Residence: 300 W 12th St, Manhattan, N Y

Employment: Unknown

Address:

Remarks: No photo

Man Pct 6

It is requested that the residence address of the subject, place of employment and address of employment be verified and the proper notation be made below:

Residence:

Employment:

Address:

Verified by:

Method of Verification:

Date:

*See attached
FD-154 by Puller*

100-99586-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIAL	FILED
JAN 31 1952	

jm

The security index card on this subject should be revised if any changes are noted above.

72B Ward

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM

RE:

Oscar Stanley BRAND, was
 Sec - M - J
 Bu file 100-370969

This Office File 100-99586

The following is the most recent residence address, place of employment and employment address of the above subject as contained on the subject's security index card.

Residence: 300 West 12th St., Manhattan, New York

Employment:

Address:

Remarks:

It is requested that the residence address of the subject, place of employment and address of employment be verified and the proper notation be made below:

Residence: 300 West 12th St, MAN, N.Y.
 Apt - 3-H.

Employment:

Address:

Verified by:

Method of Verification:

Date:

The security index card on this subject should be revised if any changes are noted above.

not turned in on 1st report of 1951

jm7 #12
 1/31/52
 100-99586-18

Director, FBI (100-370969)

February 5, 1952

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER -- C

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X

The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) Master of Ceremonies,"Folk Song Festival", NYC, Municipal Bldg, NY, NY. and Free Lance Entertainer -thru Agent - Gunther Lawrence, 117 West 63rd Street, NYC

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

HCR:mat

mat

100-99586-20

New York, New York
February 12, 1952

MEMO:

100-99586

RE: OSCAR BRAND
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SECURITY MATTER - C

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

HARVEY MARSHALL MATUSOW, Staff Sergeant, United States Air Force Reserve, on active duty and assigned to the 2750th Air Base Wing at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, testified on November 27 and 28, 1951 before a sub-Committee of the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C.

MATUSOW related his activities as a member of the Communist Party, and related organizations. He joined the Party in September or October, 1947. An "official" notice of his expulsion was published in the "Daily Worker" on January 19, 1951.

During a part of the period of his membership and for a time thereafter he was an informant of the FBI, as Confidential Informant [redacted] of this office and as Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Albuquerque Office. He has been described as of known reliability.

The testimony of MATUSOW given on the occasion noted above has been reviewed from the transcript of the hearing. Information as to individuals and organizations has been noted and the page (or pages) on which such information appears has been copied and made a part of this memorandum.

It is suggested that, where no case file exists on an individual or organization, consideration be given to opening a case for investigation.

cc - 100-94014 (HARVEY MATUSOW)

JVW:JR

*No action necessary
at this time - Case
closed - Current S.I.
Jrc #12
2/14*

BE CHARACTERIZED AS OF ~~UNKNOWN RELIABILITY~~ IN EVERY INSTANCE
INFO SECURED NOT BE DISSEMINATED TO OTHER AGENCIES UNLESS CORROBORATED BY OTHER
ABLE SOURCES.. 2/15/52

100-99586-21

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 14 1952	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Jrc

Memo:
NY 100-

It is to be noted that the testimony of MATUSOW was given in executive session. The transcript was obtained by a confidential source of the Washington Field Office, and a copy was furnished this office by the Bureau by letter dated 12/4/51, entitled "HARVEY M. MATUSOW, Former Security Informant". The information he has given should therefore be attributed directly to MATUSOW without reference in any communication outside the Bureau to his having given it before the HCUA.

A complete copy of the transcript of MATUSOW's testimony is maintained as an exhibit in his case file.

JOSEPH V. WATERS, SA

House UnAm
Skol fls
Papcun
2 p.m.
11/27
wc

AFTERNOON SESSION

2.15 p.m.

MR. WOOD. Will you proceed, Mr. Appell.

MR. APPELL. Sergeant, before we recessed for lunch, you were outlining to the committee the members of the Communist Party whom you knew to be members of the Communist Party which individuals were associated with People's Songs. Have you completed that list?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. No, I have not. I would like to refer to this brochure that was put out by People's Artists which was then the booking agency of People's Songs which listed their artists, the people they had available for bookings for Communist Party front groups and anybody who wanted to use them.

MR. APPELL. Now, with respect to People's Songs, was that discontinued as an organization in the latter part of 1949?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. That is right.

MR. APPELL. And that is now known as People's Artists?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. That is correct.

MR. APPELL. Will you continue, please?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. Now, at the time People's Artists was part of People's Songs, a name I have not mentioned before was Cisco Houston. He was a member of the Communist Party and had been active in the Maritime Workers Union during the last war. He has produced a number of records that have appeared on many People's Songs Hootenannys. He was a member of the Communist Party in the maritime industry during the last war.

MATUSOW SHOULD IN EVERY INSTANCE
 BE CHARACTERIZED AS OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY.
 INFO SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED TO OUTSIDE
 AGENCIES UNLESS CORROBORATED BY OTHER RELI-
 ABLE SOURCES. 2/8/55 d.s.

microphone?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. That is Wally Hille.

MR. APPELL. An individual whom you have previously identified as a member of the Communist party?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. Yes.

MR. APPELL. Mr. Chairman, I should like to have this photograph of Wally Hille marked Matusow Exhibit No. 6.

SERGEANT MATUSOW. For the committee's information, I believe Wally Hille worked with John Lomax in the securing of folk music for the Library of Congress back in the 30's.

MR. WOOD. I notice that on this picture there is a photograph of other people.

SERGEANT MATUSOW. Sir, that is a woman named Emma Dusenberry who was living either in Kentucky or Tennessee. She has no political connection. She is just a folk singer, and the photograph was a publicity shot of them recording some of their music.

MR. WOOD. I think that in making these photographs a part of the record we should have particular evidence identifying the various people so that improper identifications may not arise.

(The photograph of Wally Hille and Emma Dusenberry referred to was marked Matusow Exhibit No. 6 and received in evidence.)

MR. APPELL. Sergeant, I show you another photograph and ask you if you can identify this individual.

MATUSOW SHOULD, IN EVERY INSTANCE, BE CHARACTERIZED AS OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY. INFO SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES UNLESS CORROBORATED BY OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES. 4/2/51 550

SERGEANT MATUSOW. That is Oscar Brand. He told me once that the reason he was not a member of the Communist party was because he was born in Canada. I don't know what his citizenship status is, and for that reason only he was not associated with the Party.

MR. APPELL. I show you another photograph and ask you if you can identify this individual?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. This is Tom Glazer who was associated with People's Songs but was not a member of the Communist Party. He wrote for them.

MR. APPELL. I show you another photograph and ask you if you can identify this young lady?

SERGEANT MATUSOW. This is Charlotte Anthony, a member of People's Songs, and identified to me as a member of the Communist Party during the performance of my duties at People's Songs.

MR. APPELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the photograph of Oscar Brand and have it marked Matusow Exhibit No. 6, the Photograph of Tom Glazer as Matusow Exhibit No. 7, and the photograph of Charlotte Anthony as Matusow Exhibit No. 8.

MR. WOOD. It is so ordered.

(The photograph of Oscar Brand referred to was marked Matusow Exhibit No. 6 and was received in evidence. The photograph of Tom Glazer referred to was marked Matusow Exhibit No. 7 and received in evidence. The photograph of Charlotte

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM

RE: OSCAR STANLY BRAND wa

*SM-c*This Office File 100-99586
Bufile 100-370969

The following is the most recent residence address, place of employment and employment address of the above subject as contained on the subject's security index card.

Residence: 300 W. 12th St., Manhattan, NY

Employment: Master of Ceremonies, Folk Song Festival, WNYC
Municipal Bldg., NY, NY and
Address: Free Lance Entertainer - Thru Agent-Gunther Lawrence
47 West 63rd St., NY, NY
Remarks: Mann #6 no photo

It is requested that the residence address of the subject, place of employment and address of employment be verified and the proper notation be made below:

(1) Residence: PLUM POINT HOTEL
NEW WINDSOR, N. Y.

also maintain apt at 300 W. 12 St., N.Y.C.

(2) Employment: same

Address:

Verified by: (1) SA: C.B. Findley + W.P. LAMB

Method of Verification: (2) C.B. Findley

(1) (2) initiated tel call to subject andDate: (1) & (2) supt at 300 W. 12 St. N.Y.C. 100-99586-21A
12/18/52 & 2/17/53

The security index card on this subject should be revised if any changes are noted above.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>BS</i>	FILED <i>AS</i>
FEB 19 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Corrected Se In
attached. Sub
file destroy old cards
Place photo and description on
reverse side of geographical card.

FD-122
(1-2-51)

Director, FBI (100-370969)

February 5, 1952

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

TRANSMIT TO *New York* OFFICE

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X
The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME Oscar Stanley Brand

ALIASES Oscar Brown

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED X ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) Master of Ceremonies,

"Folk Song Festival", NYC, Municipal Bldg, NY, NY. and Free Lance Entertainer -

Agent - Gunther Lawrence, 117 West 63rd Street, NYC

ATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

R:mat

S.I. CARDS FILED

DATE: 3-24-52

BY: mat

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 10 1952	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SA C.B. FINDLEY

FROM : SA WILLIAM A. LAMB

SUBJECT: OSCAR STANLEY BRAND wa
OSCAR BROWN
SECURITY MATTER - C.
NY 100-99586

DATE: 2/18/53

The subject was contacted telephonically by means of a suitable pretext on 2/17/53. He advised that his present residence in the Plum Point Hotel will continue indefinitely. He also advised that he maintains an apartment at 300 West 12th Street, New York City. The Plum Point Hotel in New Windsor, New York. The Plum Point Hotel is located a short distance off Route #9W in New Windsor. New Windsor is a very small rural community located directly south of and adjacent to Newburgh, New York.

Period- 2/17,18/53.

100-99586-22a

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 19 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Findley *WAL*

Director, FBI (100-370969)

4/2/53

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLY BRAND wa;
S.M. - C

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS Plum Point Hotel, New Windsor, New York

Also maintains apartment at 300 W. 12th Street, New York, New York

CBF:LRW
MAY 1953

100-99586-23

PS

TRANSMIT TO New York OFFICE

Director, FBI (100-370969)

4/2/53

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLY BRAND wa;
S.M. - C

Corrected Security Index cards
attached. Substitute for cards
in file and destroy old cards.
Place photograph and description on
reverse side of geographical card.

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the
above-captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be
changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS Plum Point Hotel, New Windsor, New York

Also maintains apartment at 300 W. 12th Street, New York, New York

CBF:LR

S.I. CARDS FILED
DATE: APR 16 1953
BY: mat

100-99586-24
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED per FILED _____
APR 15 1953
FBI - NEW YORK ql

Director, FBI (100-370969)

10/13/53

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLEY BRAND, was:
Oscar Brown
SM-C

This is to advise that the subject telephone answering service (PL 7-6000) advised on 10/9/53 that the subjects forwarding address from 10/6 to 11/7/53 is c/o Hotel De La-Vigne, 1 Rue Casiniive La Vigne, Paris 6, France.

Mr. WILLIAM LANE, Pan American Airways, New York City, whose name should be kept confidential, advised on 10/9/53 that the subject, OSCAR S. BRAND, Newburgh, New York had departed from the United States via Pan American Airways, Flight #070 at 1 pm on 10/9/53 from NY International Airport, NYC, for London, England and that he has a roundtrip ticket, however, he had no return reservation.

It is noted that the subject is the subject of a security index card maintained by the New York Office.

Washington Field Office is requested to place a stop with the United States Customs Service so that this office may be notified when the subject returns to the United States.

For the information of the Washington Field Office the subject was born 2/7/20 at Winnipeg, Canada and was naturalized in the Eastern District Court, Brooklyn, NY on 3/23/37. He is a "free lance" radio and television entertainer and was last employed as Master of Ceremonies at radio station, WNYC, Municipal Building, NYC. Subject is 33 years old, 5'11", 180 pounds, dark curly hair and wears glasses.

2- Washington Field Office

CBF:ACK

FD-154
on file 10/14/53

100-99586-25

12-3

Director, FBI (100-370969)

10/16/53

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLEY ARAND, wa
SM-C

"UNAVAILABLE SECTION"

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

x The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

SI cards changed 10-14-53 EMM
NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) Out of Country

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List) _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS c/o Hotel De La-Vigne
1 Rue Casimire La Vigne
Paris 6, France

CBF:EMM

Emm

BW *de Jure*

100-99586-262

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM

RE: OSCAR STANLY BRAND, wa

SM-C

This Office File 100-99586
Bufile 100-370969

The following is the most recent residence address, place of employment and employment address of the above subject as contained on the subject's security index card.

Residence: Plum Point Hotel
New Windsor, New York, also
Maintains Apartment at
300 W. 12th Street
Employment: New York, New York
Master of Ceremonies, Folk Song Festival, WNYC
Address: Municipal Bldg, New York, and
Free Lance Entertainer - thru Agent-Gunther Lawrence
47 West 63rd Street, New York, New York
Remarks: Man #6 NO PHOTO

It is requested that the residence address of the subject, place of employment and address of employment be verified and the proper notation be made below:

Residence: Subject left NY International Airport for London, England, 1:30 PM, 10/9/53 via P.A.A. per Mr. Wm. Lane, P.A.A.
Employment: subjects forwarding address 10/6/53 to 11/7/53 c/o
HOTEL DE LA-VIGNE, 1 RUE CASINIOVE LA VIGNE,
Address: PARIS 6, FRANCE per: subject's telephone answering service.
Verified by: (PL 7-6300) employment - Same per: Mr. C. B. Findley Sullivan, Supt. 300 W. 12 St. NYC
Method of Verification: telephone and print call to WNYC -
Date: 10/9/53 100-99586-27

The security index card on this subject should be changed if any changes are noted above.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
NOV 4 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-99586-27

TRANSMIT TO *New York* OFFICE

Director, FBI (100-370969)

SAC, New York (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLY BRAND, wa
SM-C

Corrected Security Index cards
attached. Substitute ~~old cards~~
in file and destroy old cards.
Place photograph and description on
reverse side of geographical card.

"UNAVAILABLE SECTION"

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changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) Out of Country

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

Info sent to agent

11-12-52

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS c/o Hotel De La-Vigne
1 Rue Casimire La Vigne
Paris 6, France

CBF:EMM

S.I. CARDS FILED
DATE: 11/12/53
BY: et

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-99586-28

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

~~SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

REPORT MADE AT Washington, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-16-53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/29; 11/2/53	REPORT MADE BY SE LAWRENCE A. CONDATORE
TITLE OSCAR STANLEY BRAND, wa. Oscar Brown			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DECLASSIFICATION AS OF 7/9/77
By 6080

Subject obtained Passport Number 61554 on March 30, 1953, for purpose of traveling to France, Italy and England collecting material to be used in articles he intended to prepare for "The Saturday Review."

RUC

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

The files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, reviewed by Special Employee C. CLIMORE SNOWDEN on October 29, 1953, disclosed that OSCAR STANLEY BRAND was issued Passport Number 61554 on March 30, 1953, for a proposed four weeks travel to France, Italy and England for the purpose of collecting folk music for magazine articles and concerts. In his Passport file appears a letter from BRAND dated March 23, 1953, stating that the survey would be used for articles he intended to prepare for "The Saturday Review."

Subject stated in his Passport application dated March 23, 1953, at New York City, that he intended to

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		100 - 99586 - 30
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (100-370969) 3 - New York (100-99586) (RM) 2 - Washington Field (100-28506)		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED NOV 18 1953 FBI - NEW YORK

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL~~

WFO 100-28506

depart on or about April 29, 1953, from the International Airport, New York City, aboard the British Overseas Airlines. In this Passport application the subject listed his mailing address and permanent residence as Plum Point, New Windsorn, New York.

In his passport file the subject stated he immigrated to the United States in 1923 at New York City, residing continuously from 1923 to 1953 in New York City and derived citizenship through the naturalization of his father, ISIDORE ZANGWILL BRAND, on March 23, 1937, at Brooklyn, New York, under Certificate Number 4147595.

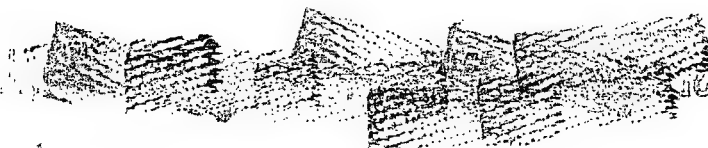
In regard to the subject's parents the application indicates his father is ISIDORE ZANGWILL BRAND, born Romania, and his mother is BEATRICE BRAND, born in Russia, both residing at 1322 - 44th Street, Brooklyn, New York.

BRAND listed his former wife, URSULA BRENNAN, who was born March 27, 1920, at New York City and who resides at 39 East 10th Street, New York City, and whom he married on September 23, 1945. According to the application this marriage was annulled in December, 1952.

Witness to this Passport was GILNY MAYHEW who is not related to the subject and resides at 5 Charles Street, New York City.

The following description was obtained from the subject's Passport application:

Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	February 7, 1920
Place of Birth:	Winnepeg, Canada
Height:	6' 1"
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Occupation:	Writer - entertainer
Marks:	Birthmark near left eye.



WFO 100-28506

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE

New York letter to WFO dated October 13, 1953.

12/24/53

Director, FBI (100-370969)

10/16 SAC, NY (100-99586)

OSCAR BRAND, wa
SM - C

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

☒ The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME OSCAR BRAND

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER _____ RESPONSIBILITY _____

INTERESTED AGENCIES _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 300 West 12th Street, Apartment 3H

Manhattan, NY, NY

JST:VMP *ms*

100 - 99586 - 31 / pm



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

November 9, 1953

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS
SUBJECT: OSCAR STANLEY BRAND, with alias Oscar Brown

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is interested in OSCAR STANLEY BRAND, a naturalized United States citizen, who may attempt to enter the United States. BRAND is described as follows:

Sex: Male
Born: February 7, 1920
Birth Place: Winnipeg, Canada
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 180 pounds
Hair: Dark, curly
Occupation: Free Lance Radio and Television Entertainer
Scars and Markings: Wears glasses
Citizenship: United States. Derivative citizenship
March 23, 1937, at Brooklyn, New York
Passport Number: 61554

BRAND was issued Passport Number 61554 on March 30, 1953. He departed from the United States via Pan American Airways on October 9, 1953, from the International Airport, New York City, for London, England, and had a round trip ticket; however, he did not have a return reservation.

In the event this individual attempts to enter a port in your district, it would be appreciated if you will notify by telephone, collect if necessary, the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and at the same time notify that office that the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is particularly interested in BRAND.

BRAND should not be unduly detained or otherwise made aware that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in him.

Very truly yours,

L. L. Laughlin

L. L. LAUGHLIN
Special Agent in Charge

100-99586-32

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 16 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	
<i>L. S. Ladd</i>	

C - New York



OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THIS OFFICE TO THE SURVEYOR

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

December 7, 1953

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: The Assistant Surveyor of Customs

TO: Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
290 Broadway
New York 7, 1953

Oscar Stanley
#100-99586

SUBJECT: Report of Deputy Collector Frank B. Shelley,
dated November 27, 1953, concerning the
arrival of OSCAR S. BRAND.

Referred for your information and file.

J. J. Flynn

J. J. FLYNN
Assistant Surveyor.

100-99586-34

SEARCHED <i>W</i>	INDEXED <i>W</i>
SERIALIZED <i>W</i>	FILED <i>W</i>
DEC 8 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

J.S. Todd

The Surveyor of Customs

Nov. 27, 1953

Frank B. Shelley - Deputy Collector - Idlewild Airport

Oscar S. Brand, subject of F.B.I. letter # X2141

Oscar S. Brand arrived at Idlewild Airport on Nov. 25, 1953 at 12:58 pm aboard the P.A.A. plane 6519, from London, England and filed Baggage Declaration # 6605754, declaring as a returning resident.

A careful examination of Mr. Brand's baggage was conducted by Inspector J.A. Han, #3628. There was no literature or correspondence of interest in his baggage except a French magazine entitled "Gabrouillet" and a film, in color of the French Festival.

Mr. Brand stated that he is a commentator for Radio Station "W H Y C" in New York City, that he is a collector of folk song records which he plays on this station. On this trip he visited England, Scotland, France, Luxemburg and Holland. He attended the trial of four youths who were accused of stealing the Stone of Skene and will write the story for the "Saturday Review". He stated that he attended Brooklyn College and that his father was Indian interpreter in Winnipeg, Canada.

His passport was endorsed - In case of accident notify Harry Brand, 29 Yale Ave., Irvington, N.J.

New York office of the F.B.I. was notified of the subject's arrival at Idlewild.

Respectfully

Frank B. Shelley
Deputy Collector

100-79586-33

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 8 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

9

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

TRANSMIT TO *New York* OFFICEFD-122
(5-11-53)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370969)

DATE: 12/24/53

FROM : SAC, NY (100-99586)

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND, wa
SM - CCorrected Security Index cards
attached. Substitute for cards
in file and destroy old cards.
Place photograph and description on
reverse side of geographical card.

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the
above-captioned individual.

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NAME OSCAR BRAND

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER _____ RESPONSIBILITY _____

INTERESTED AGENCIES _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 300 West 12th Street, Apartment 3HManhattan, NY, NY

S.I. CARDS FILED

DATE: 1/24/54BY: [Signature]

100-99586-36

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 13 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

JST:VMP

8-1
American Embassy
1, Grosvenor Square
London, W.1, England

Date: January 12, 1954
To: Director, FBI (100-370969)
From: Legal Attache, London (100-810) FOIA(b)(7) - (D)
Subject: OSCAR STANLEY BRAND
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebulet 11-10-53 to Department of State.

[redacted] advised that subject arrived in the United Kingdom from Paris on 11-4-53, and gave his local address as 64 Belsize Park, London, N.W.3. He departed from Preswick for New York on 11-24-53.

The subject did not come to the attention of [redacted] during his visit here. Further inquiries are being made by [redacted] however, to determine whether any information of a security nature can be developed. The Bureau will be advised.

JPO:AB
#P-

CC Paris (sent direct)

*Rec'd & Rps. from Bu
1/14/54*

100 - 99586 - 37

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 27 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[Signature]

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

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FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM

RE: *Oscar Stanley Brand*

This Office File *100-99586*
Ref file *100-370969*

The following is the most recent place of employment, employment address, and residence address of the above subject as contained on the subject's security index card.

Employment: *Unknown*

Address:

Residence: *300 W. 12th St, Apt 3H, Man, NY*

Remarks: *Man #6* *No Photo*

It is requested that the place of employment, address of employment, and the residence address of the subject be verified and the proper notation be made below:

Employment: *Free Lance Entertainer and Master of Ceremonies*
on "Folk Song Festival" over W.N.Y.C.
Address:

Verified By: *Donald P. Denny*

Method of Verification: *Pretext phone call to personnel dept*
of W.N.Y.C.

Date: *3/23/54*

Residence: *Same*

Verified By: *Donald P. Denny*

Method of Verification: *Pretext phone call to subject on*
Chelca 2-0649

Date: *3/23/54*

The security index card on this subject should be revised if any changes are noted above.

Security Index Verification

Assigned to: *D. Denny*

Date: *MAR 17 1954*

100-99586-40

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 29 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

WZ

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

OFFICE MEMORANDUM * UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To : SAC, New York

From : MERRILL E. MC CLOUGHAN, SA

Subject: **OSCAR BRAND**
SM-C

Date:

Att. C.F. or
List Refs.

#12-3

On 3/3/54, [redacted]

[redacted] (use T symbol),

[redacted] was interviewed at the New York Office by SA NORMAN N. HAYNES and the writer. He advised that he had been a member of the Communist Party, Bronx, New York, from September, 1945, through November, 1948; the Roger Young Branch of the AYD, Bronx, New York, from May, 1945, through February, 1946; the American Folksay Group, People's Artists, and People's Songs from about February, 1946, to June, 1948; and worked with the Progressive Party's "Caravans for Wallace" from about June, 1948, through November, 1948. He furnished the following information concerning the above captioned subject.

OSCAR BRAND

This individual obtained professional bookings through People's Artists during the period 1945 to 1947 and currently emcees a half-hour radio program over radio station WNYC on Sunday evenings at 6 PM.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

100-99586-43

SEARCHED <i>pm</i>	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>9</i>	FILED <i>9</i>
APR 12 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[Signature]

MEM:CRW

100-99586

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

REFS

TO: SAC, NY

FROM: SA JEAN S. TODD (NY file 100- 99586 FEB 8 1955
(Bufile 100- 370969)

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM-C

Rebuairtel to NY 1/28/55 entitled "HARVEY MATUSOW,
FORMER SECURITY INFORMANT" (NY 100-94014-Sub A-1).

HARVEY MATUSOW, [redacted] and [redacted], whose services
were utilized on behalf of the Bureau during the approximate
period Jan. 1950 to Dec. 1950, was discontinued effective 12/26/50.
This informant is now to be characterized in every instance as of
unknown reliability.

Pursuant to Bureau instructions in reairtel, it has been
noted on the appropriate serials in this file that information from
MATUSOW is not to be disseminated to outside agencies unless the
information has been corroborated by other reliable sources, in
which event the information furnished by MATUSOW should be identified
as coming from an informant of ~~unknown reliability~~ **KNOWN UNRELIABILITY**

In connection with dissemination of information furnished
by this informant, a review of instant file disclosed that the
following communications to the Bureau, other offices, or outside
agencies, contained information attributed to him:

REFS AS NOTED ON ATT SEARCH SLIP
REVIEWED - NO INFORMATION NOTED AS OBTAINED
FROM MATUSOW.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

For record purposes.

1 - NY 100-94014-Sub A

JAC:EJK

100-99586-44

SEARCHED <i>me</i>	INDEXED <i>me</i>
SERIALIZED <i>me</i>	FILED <i>me</i>
FEB 8 1954	
FBI-NEW YORK	

18

INDICES SEARCH SLIP

TO CHIEF CLERK:

Date

2/3/55

SUBJECT

OSCAR BRAND

ALIASES

ADDRESS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH

☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main File
☐ Restricted to Locality of _____

REFS MARKED ✓ CHECKED —
 NO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY
 MATSON RE BRAND NOTED

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

✓ 100-91410-24 p2A

✓ 100-84249-493

✓ 65-15360-565 p61, 59

✓ 932 p14

✓ 100-80374-630 p2

✓ 100-80675-305

Searched by

Clerk

Agent

Squad

References Reviewed by

100-99586-44att 1

MAIN c/f

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, NY

FROM: SA JOHN S. TODD

(NY file 100- 99586
(Bufile 100- 370969

FEB 8 1955

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM. C

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information has been corroborated by other reliable sources, in
which event the information furnished by MATUSOW should be identified
as coming from an informant of ~~unknown reliability~~ **KNOWN UNRELIABILITY**

In connection with dissemination of information furnished
by this informant, a review of instant file disclosed that the
following communications to the Bureau, other offices, or outside
agencies, contained information attributed to him:

C/F REVIEWED - NO INDICATION INFORMATION
FURNISHED BY MATUSOW EVER DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE
OFFICE - APPROPRIATELY STAMPED

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

For record purposes.

1 - NY 100-94014-Sub A2

JAC:EJK

100-99586-45

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1955	
FBI-NEW YORK	

INDICES SEARCH SLIP

TO CHIEF CLERK:

Date

2/3/55

SUBJECT

OSCAR BRAND

ALIASES

ADDRESS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH

☐ Exact Spelling☐ All References☐ Subversive References☐ Main File☐ Restricted to Locality of

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

100-99586 *

Searched by

Clerk

Agent

Squad

References reviewed by

100-99586-45001

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: SAC, NY

Date: 2/10/55

From: E. PRATT

Subject: OSCAR BRAND SM-C

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NY File 100-99586
Bufile

The Bureau has instructed that the file on HARVEY MATUSOW, who was also at one time identified by the symbol number [redacted], be reviewed for the period from 3/27/50 to 7/25/50. This is the period during which MATUSOW was an informant of the NYO. The Bureau has instructed that information furnished by MATUSOW during the pertinent period be checked against the name of the individuals or organizations on whom he has furnished information, in order to determine whether the same information was furnished from any other source.

There is attached an abstract card on which is reflected the serial number in MATUSOW'S file where information appears concerning the individual mentioned on the abstract. There is also set forth a brief synopsis of the information concerning this individual which appears on the serial. The agent receiving this memorandum is to review the main file of the individual mentioned to see whether the information furnished by MATUSOW is corroborated from any other source in the main file. In the event the information is corroborated, there should be set forth on an 8 x 10 sheet of paper the identity of the source, the date the information was received and a brief synopsis of the information as furnished by the other source. In the event there is no corroboration, such statement may be merely written on the face of this memorandum. In each instance, indicate whether the main case is a pending or closed case.

The abstract and this memorandum together with a duplicate copy and a duplicate copy of the 8 x 10 sheet setting forth the results of the search should be returned to SA J. A. CULLEN, Section 7-4, immediately.

Verified - see attached

1- NY 100-94014-Sub A-8

100-99586-46

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 13 1955	
FBI-NEW YORK	

100-99586

CLOSED

OSCAR BRAND

REPORT OF SA HENRY C. RUDA DATED
4/9/51 AT NYC S. B. 100-99586

The April 30, 1950 issue of the
Daily Worker" reflects on p. 25, column 3
that "Oscar Brand and the
Balladeers were scheduled to appear on
Sunday April 30 at 8 PM at the
Pavil Ballroom, 13 Astor Place, NYC.

Att. # 2 G

100-99586-46

OSCAR Brand

Pratt

Above attended 1950 meetings
of Progressive Forum at
13 Astor Pl.

100-99586-

DP: hcr
100-44014-47

att. # 18
100-99586-46

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: 3/4/55

FROM : SA JOHN S. TODD

(NY 100-99586)
(Bufile 100-370969)

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM-C

☐ Amended pages

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

☒ Characterization stamp

Bureau instructions have been received to the effect that in connection with stamping the various serials wherein HARVEY MATUSOW, aka [redacted] and [redacted] is mentioned as being of known unreliability, it is necessary that the agent who placed the stamp on the serial, initial it and date it as of the date the stamp was placed on the serial.

Bureau instructions have also been received that with reference to amended pages to reports which have been prepared, the agent preparing the amended pages must mark each individual amended page "Amended", followed by the initials of the agent and the date the amended pages were prepared.

In both of the above instances, the date involved will be known to the agent, as it will be found on the previous memorandum prepared by him or the cover letter transmitting the amended pages, which are contained in the master file on MATUSOW and which will be distributed to the agents.

Agents are to take the action indicated by the Bureau. They are then to date instant memorandum as of the date they took the action. They are to sign their name at the top of this memorandum following the words "From: SA". New York file number and Bureau file number, where known, should be set out in the appropriate space above. Agents are to write in the name of the person involved in their check after the word "Subject". Agents should list at the end of this memorandum the exact serial numbers and file numbers which they have handled in accordance with the above instructions. The agent is to check in the appropriate block above whether or not corrective action involved the characterizing stamp or amended pages.

1 - NY 100-94014-Sub A

WTN:LEJ

100-99586-47

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

MEMO
NY 100-

In order to be certain that no errors were made in the previous stamping, the agents are instructed, in connection with this project, to recheck the stamp placed thereon to be certain that the stamp lists MATUSEW as "of known unreliability".

The agent's signing of this memorandum will be considered as a certification by that agent that all of the above instructions have been complied with.

This memorandum, which must be completed in duplicate, together with the serials being charged out to the agent in connection with this project, must be returned personally to Supervisor T. Scott Miller by agents from Section 12 and to Supervisor Warren T. Marchessault by agents working on Section 7.

100-99586

SER 21 MEMO 2/12/52 RE TESTIMONY BEFORE HUAC 11/27, 28/51

(Stamped +
initialed)

TO: SAC, New York (100-99586)

Feb. 21, 1955

FROM: SA JAMES M. CRANDALL

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM-C OSCAR BRAND

I. MITUSOV'S Statement

HARVEY MITUSOV advised SA RICHARD T. CLANCY, July 20, 1953 that the Progressive Forums were held in the Panel Room (Third Floor) of 13 Astor Place, New York City, and that the subject was one of those listed as attending the above Progressive Forums.

(for reference see 100-94014-118).

The attached memo was prepared in connection with a request of USA J. Edward Lechard for copies of information furnished by Mitusov which was corroborated by admissible sources.

It is being placed in instant file for record purposes only and this info should not be disseminated without going to the original source.

Detailed info concerning it is set forth in 100-94014-19-1.

NTM #7

- 1 - NY 100-99586
- 1 - NY 100-94014A9

JMC:AMM

100-99586-48

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 4 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

COCAIN DRAKE

II. Collaboration

The April 10, 1953 issue of the "Daily Worker" reflects on page 25, column 3, that "COCAIN DRAKE... and the Balladeers" were scheduled to appear on Sunday, April 10th at 8:00 P.M. at Finkel Ballroom, 13 West Place, New York City. Tickets for the above occasion, this article reflected, could be obtained from People's Artists, 106 East 14th Street, New York City.

People's Artists, Incorporated, is an organization that has been declared a Communist "front organization" by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1940 report, page 292.

The December 7, 1949 issue of the "Daily Worker" reflects an advertisement on page 8, column 5, captioned "Let's Have An Old Fashioned Entertainment" which was to be held December 9, 1949 at the Finkel Ballroom, 13 West Place, New York City. Among the entertainers scheduled to appear at the above affair was COCAIN DRAKE.

The February 10, 1949 issue of the "Daily Worker" reflects on page 7, column 3, in an article captioned "What's On?", the following information concerning the subjects:

"COCAIN DRAKE: Party, dance and variety entertainer... 88 Clinton Street, near Delancey, Saturday night, February 12th, 1949. JACOB BLIS, O.F.A.:"

SECRET DRAFT

III. Corroboration from Unavailable Source

T-1, of known reliability, on February 6, 1948 made available a pamphlet which advertised a "Folk Festival For Freedom" to be held Friday, December 10, 1948 at the Penthouse Ballroom, 15 West Place, New York City, under the auspices of the Civil Rights Congress.

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10454.

T-2, of known reliability, on October 9, 1947, furnished a pamphlet containing a list of artists performing for People's Artists which furnished incidental information concerning these individuals. This article reflects that "HUGAR BLIND" produces, writes, directs and sings on his own weekly radio program. Aided by his guitar, he sings American folk and topical songs.

T-3, of known reliability, advised May 18, 1950 that HUGAR BLIND "Folk song singer" was known to him as a "concocted" Communist.

OGCAR BRAND

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGEINFORMANTS

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTIVITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION	DATE RECEIVED	AGENTS TO WHOM FURNISHED	FILE NUMBER LOCATION
-----------------------	--	------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------

T-1

[REDACTED]

12/6/48

T-2

[REDACTED]

10/9/47

T-3

LOUIS P. GROSS,
former newspaper
editor, "Daily
Worker", and a
CP functionary
until
October, 1945

former
SA WILLIAM
MO CARTER

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-99586)

DATE: 11/28/55

FROM : SA A. LEWIS BARNETT

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM - C

On 11/22/55, [] advised she had received an invitation to dinner which was to be held on 12/2/55 at 7:15 P. M. at the Faculty Dining Room, Brooklyn College. She advised that the dinner was being sponsored by the Library Associates of Brooklyn College and was to feature OSCAR BRAND, Folk Singer. The source advised that BRAND was a graduate of Brooklyn College.

cc: []

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

100-99586-50/54

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
NOV 28 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

747

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-99586)

FROM : SA A. LEWIS BARNETT (#7-3)

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM-C

DATE: 1/5/56

On 12/9/55, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished to SA A. LEWIS BARNETT by letter dated 12/8/55, a clipping concerning OSCAR BRAND from the 12/2/55, issue of the "Brooklyn College Kingsmen," and mimeographed throwaway concerning the Students for Democratic Action (SDA). The clipping concerning BRAND is attached hereto and the SDA throwaway is being attached to the copy of this memorandum designated for the file of the SDA. -100-120990 att #1 to Ser 40

The SDA leaflet sets forth the SDA's stand concerning democratic freedom, civil liberties, and civil rights. The leaflet reflects that the Brooklyn College chapter of the SDA meets every Wednesday at 12:15 P.M., and also reflects that the president and vice president of the Brooklyn College chapter, SDA, are ISABEL GOLDSTEIN, and DICK POLENBERG, respectively.

On 12/20/55, [redacted] was contacted by the writer concerning NY file 100-124587 (ALVIN ALLEN). Information furnished concerning this case is being handled by separate communication.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - 100-120990 (SDA)
- ① - New York (100-99586)

ALB:pmh/mkc
(3)

MIC

100-99586-51

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
JAN 5 1956	
FBI - NEW YORK	

12-14
3-3
1/16

courses at the maximum rate of

Oscar Brand, Ex-BCer To Be Given Award

Oscar Brand, Brooklyn alumnus and nationally known folk singer, will receive the Distinguished Service to Brooklyn Award of the Library Associates of Brooklyn College at their 6th annual dinner on Friday, December 2.

The award is presented each



OSCAR BRAND

year to a "Brooklyn resident who has achieved distinction in his field of endeavor, or to a non-resident who has made valuable contributions to the well-being of the borough."

Mr. Brand was a psychology major at BC. Following graduation he went into radio work. He served in the US Army as a psychologist. In 1952 he produced a documentary film, "It Takes Everybody," which was entered in that year's Venice and Edinburgh Film Festivals. He was commissioned to write 52 scripts on American folk music to be broadcast in England. At present Mr. Brand has a radio show at WNYC called "The Folk Song Festival" which features folk music and folk song specialists from throughout the world.

att #1 to 100-99586-51

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

2/21/56

don ~~TGT~~ SAC, NEW YORK (100-99586)

OSCAR STANLEY BRAND, was.
SM-C

ReNYletter to Bureau, cc WFO dated 10/13/53, in which the WFO was requested to place a stop with the United States Customs Service so that the NYO might be informed in the event the subject returned to the US.

This is to advise that this stop is no longer needed and NYO requests that same be cancelled by the WFO with the United States Customs Service.

2- Washington Field (RM)
①- New York (100-99586)

pol
TGT:POL
(3)

dc
100-99586-52



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

March 16, 1956

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

TO: ALL COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF STOP NOTICES

Set out below is a list of stop notices requested by
this Bureau that may now be cancelled:

<u>Subject of Stop Notice</u>	<u>Date of FBI Request</u>	<u>Collectors to Whom Addressed</u>
✓ BRAND, Oscar Stanley	11/9/53	All Collectors
BRISTOW, Esther Mitchell, nee Esther Mitchell, also known as Mrs. Cyril Bristow	1/13/54	All Collectors
DISTENFELD, Max, with aliases Mark Distenfeld, Mark Disten	2/9/55	Eastern Seaboard
ERCHOV, Nikolai Nikolaevich, also known as Nikolai Nikolaevich Ershov, Nicholas N. Ershov	8/10/54	All Collectors
FEDOSIMOV, Pavel Ivanovich	2/10/51	All Collectors
KOURNAKOFF, Nicholas	6/8/51	All Collectors
KRENOV, James and Julia Krenov	8/30/51	All Collectors
LEVENSON, Charlotte, also known as Mrs. Phil David Levenson	2/3/56	All Collectors
OBERWAGER, Jerome	7/21/52	Mexican Border
SIMON, Gustave, with aliases Harold Simon, Harold Storm, Al Storm, Hal Storm, Hal Simon	7/21/52	All Collectors
WELTMAN, William Paul	11/9/53	Eastern Seaboard

Stop cleared
4/12/56

1 - N.Y. (100-99586)nm

100-99586-53

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 21 1956	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Subject of Stop Notice

Date of
FBI Request

Collectors to
Whom Addressed

WERTENBAKER, Lael, also known as
Lael Laird, Mrs. Stephen Laird,
Mrs. Charles Christian Wertenbaker,
Mrs. William Sheldon Kerriush
Stage, Lael Stage, Lail Tucker
Laird Wertenbaker, Lael T. L.
Wertenbaker, nee Lael Luttrell
Tucker

6/2/55

Eastern Seaboard

ZELUCK, Stephen

7/30/53

Eastern Seaboard

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

L. L. Laughlin
L. L. LAUGHLIN
Special Agent in Charge

CLOSEUP:

Folk Musician

JOSEPH WERSHBA



BRAND

mor. He had a talent for writing folk songs and for Shakespeare, and won popularity contests hands down. Oscar was everybody's campus favorite in those days. But did he really know the territory? Would he be able to make a living when he went out into the cold world?

Progress report, two decades later: Oscar is making a living. In any given week, he may be (a) turning out a new album of songs—46 albums so far; (b) publishing a new song book—five to date; (c) doing a television show; (d) scripting or performing in a film documentary—45 at last count; (e) performing at a concert—uncounted thousands by now; (f) writing a Broadway musical—his first try; (g) composing a profitable hit tune; and (h) conducting his 17th consecutive year of weekly folk song festivals on WNYC.

"Whenever I lose a job, it's a relief," says Brand. Some of the jobs even pay. His wife, Rubyan, and their two children, Jeannie, 6, and Eric, 3, have been eating regularly of late.

This week, Brand was performing at the Bitter End Club in Greenwich Village and proudly autographing new copies of "The Ballad Mongers" (Funk & Wagnalls, \$4.50), his newly published history of the rise of the modern folk song movement in America.

If Brand's name turns up among such luminaries as Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly, Alan Lomax, Pete Seeger, Josh White, Lee Hays and Theo Bikel, it is not because Brand is an immodest man. As an impresario, he has also been one of the generative sources of the folksong renaissance in this country.

"Basically, my function on the WNYC program is to introduce or present people who are good," Brand observes.

He does the program free—but that doesn't make his task any easier. "The city administration has been hearing about me for years," he says cheerfully. "I sing a union song—and bango! The Mayor gets a letter. I put on an anti-union song and bango! The Mayor gets another letter. If I put Pete Seeger on the air, bango! Some more mail for His Honor. But I guess if there'd

CLIPPING FROM THE

N.Y.

EDITION

DATED

PAGE

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

NOT FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RUBYAN BRAND

100-99586-54

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
OCT 5 1962
FBI - NEW YORK

~~been~~ any real trouble, I'd have been off ~~the air~~ years ago."

In his time, Brand has been blacklisted by both Communists and right wingers—and while this double jeopardy has had its amusing aspects, Brand sees nothing funny about the blacklist, which he says continues right along today in the world of commercial folk song entertainment.

"I say let the actor play his part. Let the singer sing his songs," Brand remarks in his new book, adding, "Blacklisting is a despicable art."

* * *

Oscar Brand was born in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1920, got his early schooling there, traveled with his family down to Minnesota, then Chicago and across to upstate New York.

He was working on a farm there when he got his chance to enter Brooklyn College. He'd always wanted to be a writer, but found to his surprise that he was an A student in psychology. When the war came along, Brand went into the Army as a psychologist. "Very wild," he remembers, "and some day I may do a musical about it."

In his college days, Brand had developed an avid interest in folk song history and got to meet the leading singers in the field—"although hardly anyone at college seemed to know what I was talking about," he recalls.

"I began as a researcher, then started to sing and learned the guitar—one thing leading to another. I even conducted Alfredo Antonini's CBS orchestra once. I was way out of my depth, but Alfredo wanted me to show the men just how I intended my music to be played."

Success took some time. There were lean years after the war, and an unsuccessful first marriage. "I gave up psychology and tried writing—and it was murder," Brand says. "I volunteered to do folk song shows on the local radio stations and I finally made a small living singing songs at concerts, picket lines, American Labor Party meetings."

Making a living became easier after he wrote "A Guy Is a Guy," for Doris Day some years ago, and soon his record albums began to appear with assembly-line regularity.

He and Paul Nassau are now at work converting Marguerite Cullman's "Ninety Dozen Glasses" into a Broadway musical. Brand recently ended an NBC-TV children's series on American history and he still can't understand why the press paid no attention to the show, despite the continuing cry for educational TV for children. However, he is now at work on another NBC-TV children's program.

Brand and his family live in the Village. "I resist moving to the suburbs because I want my children to go to integrated schools," he says. He and his wife, a former professional dancer who now paints, shares a Sullivan St. studio. It's filled to the ceiling with thousands of tape recordings, records and books—as well as Mrs. Brand's art work.

"Some day, I want to hit it big with a musical, a play or a novel—so I can give up a lot of other things and not have to worry about any ~~kind of~~ pressures," he says.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, New York (100- 99586)

DATE: 8/19/63

FROM : Edward W. Buckley, SA(423)

SUBJECT: OSCAR BRAND
SM-C

On this date Det. John Sullivan of the Nassau Cty. PD Intelligence Squad advised that he received information that OSCAR BRAND a Folk Singer will appear as an entertainer at the Long Island Fair, Roosevelt Field from 8/24 to 9/2/63.

Det. Sullivan advised that it was reported to him by his source that this subject was a former member of the PEOPLE'S SONG and may have been active as a singer before Communist Groups.

Det. Sullivan has no factual information regarding this subject being a member of the Communist Party.

Above for information.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

100-99586-53

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 20 1963	
FBI - NEW YORK	

423

FBI LIAISON:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RE:

Oscar Stanley BRAND
BORN: Feb 7, 1920
PLACE: Canada

RESIDENCE:

4 Perry Street
New York City, New York 10014

BUREAU FILE NUMBER:

100-270969

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

Unknown

PASSPORT NUMBER:

A-0736000 issued April 13, 1970,
New York

TRAVEL PLANS

DATE OF DEPARTURE:

June 1, 1970

PURPOSE OF TRIP:

Pleasure

PROPOSED LENGTH OF STAY:

2 weeks

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION:

Air

COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED:

England

PASSPORT OFFICE
Robert D. Johnson



RECEIVED WITH BUREAU
ROUTING SLIP DATED: 5/22/70 m

100-99586-56

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 25 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Date prepared

2/28/72

Date received

1/27/72

Received from (name or symbol number)

Received by

HORACE P. BECKWITH

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☐ by telephone ☐ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☒ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated

to

Transcribed

Authenticated
by Informant

Date of Report

1/26/72

Date(s) of activity

1/20/72

Brief description of activity or material

Testimonial Dinner in Honor of RUTH
GAGE-COLBY at the Hotel Biltmore,
New York City, 1/20/72.

File where original is located if not attached

* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by _____ on date _____

Remarks:

All necessary action taken.

Pertinent information concerning speech by
DANIEL ELLSBERG, at this dinner, disseminated by airtel
and LHM, 1/25/72, under NYfile 65-25641.

- 1- [redacted]
- 1- 100-136787 (RUTH GAGE-COLBY)
- 1- 100-173433 (STEPHANIE COONTZ)
- 1- 100-102413 (BELLA ABZUG)
- 1- 100-113220 (OSSIE DAVIS)
- 1- 100-123603 (RUBY DEE)
- ① 100-99586 (OSCAR BRAND)
- 1- 65-25641 (DANIEL ELLSBERG) (31)
- 1- 100-126048 (ARTHUR W. GALSTON)
- 1- 100-173476 (JAMES LAFFERTY)
- 1- 100-23682 (WILPF)
- 1- 100-4013 (SWP) (41)
- 1- 100-158591 (SMC) (41)
- 1- 100-170471 (NPAC) (41)

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FILE STRIPPED

BY 1A ON 7/18/74

100-99586-57

Block Stamp

HPB:epl
(14)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 28 1972	
FBI - NEW YORK	

JANUARY 26, 1972

On Thursday January 20, 1972 a testimonial dinner in honor of Ruth Gage-Colby was held on the 19th floor of the Hotel Biltmore at 43rd Street and Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017. The purpose of the dinner was to commemorate her more than 50 years of work for peace as a leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and more currently, of the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC).

The cocktail hour preceding the dinner began at 7:00 p.m. in a lounge adjoining the dining hall. The price of a ticket, which included both cocktails and dinner, was \$25. Unfortunately for the guests the selection of liquors was rather narrow, and was confined mainly to whiskey, gin and bourbon, with appropriate mixes.

At 8:00 p.m. on the dot the guests were herded into the banquet hall where dinner was served. The menu included fruit cup, roast stuffed chicken with carrots and onions, rolls and butter, stewed peaches and a bombe of ice and vanilla ice cream, and tea or coffee. The guests, numbering some 450, filled the dining hall from one end to the other.

After dinner there was a program of speeches for which the co-chairmen were Ruby Dee and James Lafferty. First of all there was a musical performance by the folk singer Oscar Brand. Next Representative Bella Abzug took the floor to declare that those groups which had been excluded from the power structure in this country--women, blacks, the young--were now demanding their rightful share of power.

Following her came Professor Arthur W. Galston, who had recently visited the People's Republic of China and had been told by its leaders that the situation in Vietnam, and not Formosa, would be the principal stumbling block in the anticipated meeting between them and President Nixon. He expressed regret that a passage in his own doctoral dissertation was the starting point for the development of the technique of defoliation now used to scorch the earth of Indo-China.

The longest address of the evening was given by Stephanie

Coontz, who made a point-by-point analysis and critique of President Nixon's State of the Union message delivered earlier that day. She accused the President of lying to the American people when he claimed to be winding down the war, when in fact he was merely replacing men with automation. She also attacked the large sums allocated to the military budget instead of to domestic welfare projects. The audience became increasingly restless during her speech and many people left the room.

Principal speaker of the evening was Daniel Ellsberg, who received a standing ovation from the audience. The individual who introduced him remarked that instead of the 2 counts in the original indictment, the new one contained 15 counts carrying a total of 115 years of imprisonment if Ellsberg were convicted on all of them. Ellsberg opened his speech by saying that the Government was winding down the war in the same way that it was winding down his indictment. He expressed the hope that the Vietnam war would not be in progress 50 years from now, and said that he was appalled by the accounts of the slaughter and physical devastation in Vietnam that had figured in previous speeches that evening. His remaining observations were in praise of Ruth Gage-Colby and other individuals seated on the dais.

Ossie Davis, whose name appeared on the dinner program, was unable to attend the dinner. Most of the other speakers were leaders of NPAC, on whose steering committee Ruth Gage-Colby had served from the time of its founding. She herself addressed the diners who had the patience to sit through more than two and a half hours of speechmaking, at the very close of the program. She reminisced on her activity in the wake of the two world wars, and recalled particularly her part in the drafting of the United Nations Covenant on Genocide, which had been reported out of a Senate committee 24 years after the time of its writing.

Seated at Table 12 were a husband and wife evidently affiliated with the Socialist Workers Party. They felt that the resumption of the bombing in Indo-China would revive the peace movement in the spring. The Student Mobilization Committee was losing ground on the college campuses but was firmly entrenched in the high schools. The man told how Hubert Humphrey had approached NPAC with a request to be allowed to participate in the demonstration of April 24, 1971 and had received the answer that he and his supporters could have their own section in the march: War Criminals for Peace.

The program of speeches was concluded at 11:35 p.m.

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 5-13-77)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC:

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Alexandria
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☐ Miami
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☐ New Haven
☐ New Orleans
☒ New York City
☐ Norfolk

☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ Sacramento
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield
☐ Tampa
☐ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Caracas
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Madrid
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico City
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Tokyo

☐ SAC, New Rochelle (MRA) ☐ ASAC, Rapid City (*Mini*) _____ (Date)

RE: Oscar Brand

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____
☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.
☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

100-99556-58
OCT 21 1977
MARK

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FBI/DOJ



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS DISCLOSURE COVER SHEET
FOI/PA BRANCH
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Subject of Request: **Oscar Brand**

Mr. Oscar Brand
1 Times Square
New York, New York 10036

OCT 20 1977

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from our files. Excisions have been made from these documents and/or entire documents withheld in order to protect materials which are exempted from disclosure by the following subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and Section 552a. The exemption number(s) indicated by a mark appearing in the block to the left of the subsection cited constitutes the authority for withholding the deleted material. (See below and reverse side of this sheet for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Section 552

☐ (b) (1)

☒ (b) (2)

☐ (b) (3)

☐ (b) (4)

☐ (b) (5)

☐ (b) (6)

☐ (b) (7) (A)

☐ (b) (7) (B)

☒ (b) (7) (C)

☒ (b) (7) (D)

☐ (b) (7) (E)

☐ (b) (7) (F)

☐ (b) (8)

☐ (b) (9)

Section 552a

☐ (d) (5)

☐ (j) (2)

☐ (k) (1)

☐ (k) (2)

☐ (k) (3)

☐ (k) (4)

☐ (k) (5)

☐ (k) (6)

☐ (k) (7)

The decision to withhold exempt portions of our records is the responsibility of Clarence M. Kelley, Director of the FBI.

☐ If you believe your name may also have been recorded by the FBI incident to the investigation of other persons or some organization, please advise us of the details describing the specific incident or occurrence and time frame. Thereafter, further effort will be made to locate, retrieve and process any such records.

☒ Your request for information concerning yourself has been considered in light of the provisions of both the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a). It has been determined by the Attorney General that requests by individuals seeking information about themselves are governed by the Privacy Act. In addition, as a matter of administrative discretion, any documents which were found to be exempt from disclosure under the Privacy Act were also processed under the provisions of the FOIA. Through these procedures, you have received the greatest degree of access authorized by both laws.

☒ You have thirty days from receipt of this letter to appeal to the Deputy Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Deputy Attorney General (Attention: Office of Privacy and Information Appeals), Washington, D. C. 20530. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal."

☐ See additional information on continuation page.

James M. Powers
James M. Powers, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Enclosure

Mr. Oscar Brand

① - ADIC, New York (FOIPA info)

Note for ADIC, New York: On 10/22/76, the Bureau received the FOIPA request of Oscar Brand dated 10/16/76. A search of the central records revealed 1 main file of which Brand was the subject: 100-370969 consisting of 20 serials. The total release consists of 102 pages after routine excisions were made as noted in instant letter.